

JUNE 2025
MECDHH/GBSD

NEWSLETTER



HOST-BASED PROGRAMS/LEADERSHIP

Beginning in August 2025, we will have micro host sites for Deaf Ed programs at York Middle School and Brewer Community School. Due to small enrollment, both of those schools will be staffed with itinerant Teachers of the Deaf and Educational Technicians. We will also have students in our new Deaf Ed programs at Lewiston's Farwell Elementary, Lewiston Middle School, and Lewiston HS. We will continue Deaf Ed programming in Portland Public Schools at Lyman Moore Middle School and Portland High School.

The MECDHH/GBSD school programs leadership structure is staffed by Statewide Education and Family Services Director (SEFS) Kim Matthews-Hermans and Assistant SEFS Director Cathy Lushman. Each region of the state will be led by a coordinator, as follows: Northern - Donna Casavant, Western - Erin Bunce, Southern - Melanie Bowlus, Eastern - Megan Garrity, Central - to be determined. The Early Intervention and Family Services (EIFS) program will continue to be led by Amy Spencer.

We are excited to move toward expanded host partnerships and a clearly-defined leadership structure designed to be more responsive to the needs of students, including those who attend school in their home district.



Pictured above:
MECDHH/GBSD students
at The Ecology School

POP UP PLAYGROUPS

Our Early Intervention and Family Services team, which serves kids ages 0-6 who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, has been busy holding not only their weekly playgroup on Mackworth Island, but "pop up" playgroups around the state. Some recent locations are: Maine Wildlife Park in Gray, Neighborhood Books in Presque Isle, and the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport!



SEA DOGS GAME

June 4 was Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Night at the Portland Sea Dogs! Some of our students performed the National Anthem to open the game. They did a great job!! The Deaf community showed up in force and people had a great time: fun food, great weather, good company!

THE ECOLOGY SCHOOL

Last month, ten of our grades 4-8 students attended the three-day, two-night program offered at the Ecology School on Saco River. Our students stayed on their campus and experienced three ecosystem-based lessons a day in which they explored food systems, the forests, fresh water sources, and other natural areas. Our students drew connections between ecosystems, noticed patterns in the world around them, and witnessed natural processes such as cycles, change, and disturbance at work in different ecosystems. Thank you so much to Megan Garrity, our Family & Peer Programming Coordinator, for organizing and leading this stellar opportunity for our students!



Left to right top row:

Katie Duncan, audiologist (left), and Amy Spencer, EIFS coordinator (middle) at Maine's Conference for Professionals & Families of DHH Children in Augusta; Students at The Ecology School in Saco; Executive Director Steve Connolly works the MECDHH/GBSD table at Maine's Conference for Professionals & Families of DHH Children

Middle row:

Early learners at a popup playgroup event at the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport; A Mackworth Island preschool graduate with MECDHH/GBSD Board Chair, Tommy Minch; An MECDHH/GBSD athlete and Kirsten Lewis, Occupational Therapist, represent MECDHH/GBSD at Cumberland County Special Olympics in Buxton

Bottom row:

Megan Garrity, Family & Peer Programming Coordinator and Emily Blachly, TOD, teach Deaf 101 to Children's Museum of Maine staff; Teens at the Kids Like Me overnight in Carrabassett Valley; Kim Matthews-Hermans, Director of SEFS, presents an Aroostook County graduating senior with her athletic award



There are many opportunities for Maine kids who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and their families to connect with peers and other families over the summer - check out some options below!



For more information about all summer events visit our events page at: <https://www.mecdhh.org/events/>



Summer 2025 Pine Tree Camp's 4th Annual Dirigo Experience August 18 - 23



Pine Tree Camp's Dirigo Experience brings Maine's Deaf and hard of hearing youth together at Pine Tree Camp for a unique six-day overnight camp filled with guided and immersive outdoor experiences on the shores of North Pond in beautiful Rome, Maine.

Most Deaf youth have never had the chance to meet another Deaf person their own age. The Dirigo Experience breaks that cycle of isolation by providing students the chance to make new friends and develop a greater sense of self-esteem through trying new things. This program is designed to help build confidence, leadership and social skills, all while having fun!

- Six-day overnight camp
- August 18 - 23
- For ages 5 to 15
- Registration opens March 3
- Full scholarships are available

Register at www.pinetreesociety.org/camp-home

Questions?
Contact: Kevin Bohlin, Interpreting Services kbohlin@pinetreesociety.org



207-386-5990 • ptcamp@pinetreesociety.org • www.pinetreesociety.org/camp-home • Rome, Maine

MECDHH Summer Events!



Upcoming Events

Date	Event
JUNE 1	Maine Wildlife Park
JUNE 30	Maine Bound Family Experience in Orono
JULY 11	Family Pop-Up Water Day
JULY 12	Family Learning Day with MECDHH Staff
JULY 29-30-31	Marine Coastal Study (K-8)
AUGUST 9	Family Fun Day at Camp Capella



For more information, contact Megan Garrity
Email: megan.garrity@mecdhh.org Text: 207-200-4592

ENJOY THE SUMMER !!!

