S.P.iriT.

Students, **P**arents and **T**eachers

and the

Lavina School Association

The Lavina School's

Parent Guidebook

for

2026-2027 School Year

Welcome! As a parent in our district, you are SO important to us. Schools are so much better when everyone (students, parents, and school personnel) work together to build community and support each other. We, the Lavina School Association (LSA), together with our subgroup SPiriT (students-parents-teachers) bring to you this parent guidebook to help families navigate the school year. The purpose of this guidebook is to bring relevant information to parents whose children attend Lavina Public School. As a school, we welcome all parents as valuable members and encourage you to become involved in helping our school community as we work together to support all of our students.

School Contacts

Main Office: 636-2761

NOTE: all email addresses for staff follow a pattern. Use the first letter of the individual's first name, followed by the individual's last name, then @lavinapublicschools.com

Nicole Hanson	
Superintendent/Principal	nhanson@lavinapublicschools.com
Charly Tatom	
District Clerk	ctatom@lavinapublicschools.com
Rena Kouba	
Administrative Assistant	rkouba@lavinapublicschools.com

Elementary Teachers (PK-5th Grades)

Pre-School/K	Kim Kopetzky
1st/2nd Grade	Sarah Bruner
3rd Grade	Cedar Martin
4th/5th Grade	Stacey Mihalovich
Middle School *(6th grade + 7th grade math)*	Kelli Schwehr

High School Teachers (7th - 12th Grades)

Social Sciences	Sarah Lyda
Science	Lisa Carpenter
Math	Dale Estes
English	Susan Hayes
Business	Scott Severance
Family Consumer Science	Ivy Mallo
Health/PE	Scott Severance
Vo Ag	Abigayle Hansen

Other School Staff (serving all grade levels)

School Counselor	Kelli Schwehr
Food Service	Pam Forrest
Music (K-5)	Janet Jansen
Special Education/504	Kayla Maki
Title I	Dawn Shlaudeman
Website	Susan Hayes
Library	Abigayle Hansen
Literacy Coach	Lynette Larson

Community Organizations

These community organizations welcome all new members who share a passion for improving our school and community.

SPiri**T**

Contact: Kimberly Kopetzky, Faculty Liaison

SPiri**T** evolved as a focused committee consisting of a senior student, LSA members.parent and teachers. Its vision is to provide a place where students, parents and teachers have an equal voice. It is intentionally designed to facilitate communication among all citizens of the school-centered community and works to improve the communication process between these stakeholders.

Lavina School Association

lavinaschoolassocation@gmail.com

Current President: Amanda Wessel

You can find "Lavina School Association" on Facebook.

The LSA is a 501(c)(3) dedicated to promoting and financially supporting projects for the Lavina students and community.

Some examples of school specific projects supported:

- *Back to School Ice Cream Social*
- *Halloween Open House at the Senior Center*
- *Missoula Children's Theatre*
- *Sponsoring Alberta Bair Performance Trips*

School Organizations and Activities

Athletics

Shae Fisher & Scott Severance, Athletic Director

Any student in grades 5-12 are welcome to participate in the following sports through the Broadview/Lavina Pirates sports cooperative.

Girls -- Volleyball, Basketball, Track & Field

Boys -- 6-man Football, Basketball, Track & Field

Please note: an activity fee and a Montana High School Association Concussion form and doctor's physical must be on file before participation.

Business Professionals of America

Susan Hayes, Advisor

Any student in grades 9-12 are welcome to join. Students learn and then compete regionally, statewide and nationally in a wide range of business subjects that are of interest to the student. Examples are website design and development, resume building and interview skills, spreadsheet applications, video production and just about any other business related item.

Student Council

Sarah Lyda, Advisor

Students in grades 9-12 are welcome to run in the school-wide election to participate as elected members of the student government. Officer positions representing the student body as a whole: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Historian. Additionally, Middle School through Senior Classes

elect a class Senator who serves as the liaison between The Student Council and his/her class. The Student Council collaborates closely with the Broadview School to plan joint events for sports, and works to better the school for its citizens.

National Junior Honor Society (Grades 7-9)
National Honor Society (Grades 10-12)
Kelli Schwehr, Advisor
Students are selected for application each spring based on their cumulative grade point averages. Junior Honor Society candidates must have a 3.00 GPA and National Honor Society candidates must have a 3.33 GPA to be considered for application. Selected candidates then complete an application that is scored via a national rubric by a faculty council. Successful applicants are inducted in a ceremony in the spring of each school year.

Middle and High School Class Advisors
Each class has a faculty advisor who oversees any activities and fundraising for the class. During basketball season, classes sign up to work a shift at concessions.

Freshman	Scott Severance
Sophomore	Sarah Lyda
Junior	Dale Estes
Senior	Susan Hayes
7th/8th	Mrs. Carpenter
6th	Kelli Schwehr

Events to Look Forward To This Year

August -Back to School BBQ, before school year begins

Fall/Winter

Volleyball / Football
Music Concerts for all grades
Halloween at the Senior Center
Opening Basketball Tournament Weekend
Business Professionals of America Regionals-Billings

Winter/Spring

Play Day for Elementary School
Ski or Alternative Fun Activity Day
Music Concerts
Music Festival Competitions, Grades 9-12
Little Bearcats Basketball, Grades 1-4
Honor Society Inductions
Academic Awards Banquet, all grades
Pirate Athletic Awards Banquet, Grades 5-12
Montana State Testing, Grades 3-8
High School Prom
Business Professionals of America Competition
Billings Business Professionals of America National Competition
End of Year Carnival

Frequently Asked Questions from Parents

How do I know what my child's grades are and whether any homework is missing?
Our district uses the online grading program *Infinite Campus*. Through IC parents can see many facets of their child's academic picture including grades, attendance history, and lunch balances. District-wide messages can be accessed and you can also select to be notified by phone with pertinent information about your child and the school. Infinite Campus can be accessed through the web on your computer or through an app for your smartphone called *"Campus Parent"*. To gain access to IC, please contact Julie Sperry, the District Clerk. She will give you the district identification information.

Additionally, your child's teacher always welcomes your communication. Please refer to the email list at the beginning of this guidebook.

What if I have concerns about homework or other academics?
The best person to contact with academic concerns is your child's teacher. Typically, teachers will not take phone calls during instruction time because they interrupt the class. Additionally, it is often hard to maintain confidentiality during a phone call while students are in the room. The best route is to reach out via email as all teachers have school email addresses that they regularly check. You can ask a specific question or request a face-to-face meeting. All teachers are contracted to be in the building from 7:40 am to 3:35 pm. Advance appointments are recommended as our teachers wear many hats in a small rural school and may not always be in their classroom or available after school hours.

How do I access the School website? What information will I find there?
The Lavina Public School website is www.lavinapublicschools.com, and it is a one-stop resource to access the current calendar of events, teacher and group web pages, and the latest happenings at our little school. There are also links to the student handbook and the monthly lunch menu. You can read a digital version of "What's Happening" our monthly newsletter. New material is added weekly. Please check it out!

How will I know if school is unexpectedly canceled due to weather or other emergency?
The best way to get up-to-date information about the school is to maintain your access to Infinite Campus and the school website, and/or the Lavina School Facebook page.

Bus riding families may also receive an early morning phone call from their bus driver with additional information about any closures and how they will affect bus routes.

How do I pay for my child's school meals? School meals should be paid in advance. Prices are: Breakfast K-5 $2.25, 6-12 $2.50, Adults $3.50 Lunch: Pre-K-5 $2.25, 6-12 $2.75,

Adults $5.30. Families may apply online for reduced/free meals.

What should I do if my child will miss school?
Please call the main office at 406-636-2761 if your child will be absent due to an unexpected event or illness. The office must receive notification directly from a parent or guardian of the child who will be absent.

For prearranged absences due to appointments or the like, where you know IN ADVANCE that your child will be absent, please contact the teacher as soon as possible so that your child can complete an ADVANCED MAKEUP form and get any missed assignments.

How will I know about school concerts and what my child should wear?
All students preschool through 5th grade participate in school concerts as part of their music education. The teacher is Mrs. Jansen.

What is the "Sports Co-op"?
In order to provide more athletic and social opportunities for our students, Broadview and Lavina formed a Sports Cooperative, which has its own separate Board. Under this Co-op, we are known as The Broadview-Lavina Pirates. Our colors are purple and black. This combination of resources means we all benefit from shared practice spaces, transportation, finances, coaches and get to field a team! It has been very successful. This relationship also offers combined school dances for high school students several times a year. There is also an opportunity to play in the Pirate Pep Band for high school students.

My kids are in sports, and we live outside of Lavina. How will I know when to pick them up after practice?
Shay Fisher and Scott Severance, our Athletic Directors, will send out weekly emails with schedules for games, practice times and pick-up times in Lavina, and are posted on Facebook. Please be sure you have given the office an accurate email address so you will be included on the list. For game days, **the coach** will be the best contact for information about return times to Lavina. Most coaches will share their contact information at the beginning of the season.

My kid says that s/he has to work concessions? What does that mean for me? Why is my kid working concessions?
Concessions are expected to be made available to the public at sporting events and other activities, such as Play Day or the Holiday Bazaar. To meet this community expectation, student groups and individual classes, along with their faculty advisors, are asked to periodically work at concessions. The benefit for students is that the class or organization can keep profits for activities of the organization or class. The work at concessions REQUIRES your child be there from set-up to clean-up. Because the faculty advisor is often the only adult present, it is ***always*** appreciated when any parent volunteers offers to help.

Your child may be at the school as late as 10:00 PM, which is why usually only students grades 6-12 are asked to work.

The best practice is to be in contact with your child's class/organization advisor to get more details for that particular night.

The funds raised through concessions, as with other class or organization fundraisers, are used to pay for activities that the class or organization may need to fund as they move through school. It is expected that all student members of the class or organization contribute to earning money for activities as all students benefit. Here are some examples

Prom -- Junior Class typical contributes $500
Graduation -- expenses for decorations, speakers, etc.

Special Trips -- Expenses beyond the school contribution such as The Senior Trip or BPA National Competitions.

Speaking of Prom, how does that work with such a small student body?
The High School Prom is held each April in Billings and is a joint celebration with other local small Class C Schools -- Ryegate, Rapelje, Custer, Melstone, Reed Point and Broadview. The Junior Class from each of these schools contributes $500 to a joint prom fund from which all expenses from music to decorations are paid. Junior Representatives from each school meeting and plan together. High School Students purchase tickets to attend. Students from non-participating schools are allowed to attend ONLY with an invitation from a participating school AND with approval from the office (see Mrs. Hanson for paperwork). Ticket sales made at the door are put into the joint prom fund. After all expenses are paid, the remaining money in the joint prom fund is equally distributed among all participating schools.

I am new here and overwhelmed by all the little things that happen in a small school. Is there another parent I can call if I have questions?
Truly….any Board Member of the Lavina School Association (LSA) is more than happy to have you contact them. We have ALL been new and totally understand. They also have children of various grades in Lavina:
Amanda Wessel, the current President and parent;
Jenny Somers, LSA Treasurer and parent
Kim Kopetzky, LSA Faculty Liaison/Pre-K/K Teacher

Lavina School Board
Ben Lehfeldt, blehfeldt@lavinapublicschools.com
Dan Peters-Vice-Chair, danpeters@lavinapublicschools.com
KJ Fauth-Chairman, kjfauth@lavinapublicschools.com