

**Helena Education Foundation**  
**Great Ideas Grant Recipients**  
**November 2006\***

**1. Bringing History to Life (\$1000)**

**School:** Helena High School     **Teacher Recipient:** Kristen Lyndes

**Sponsor: Student Assistance Foundation**

Students in this special education program will document history and make connections with their personal histories using digital cameras, computers and movie software. The year long documentation of student, faculty and community life will culminate in a unique digital yearbook.

**2. Bring on the Books (\$1,000)**

**School:** Bryant School     **Teacher Recipient:** Charlotte Henson

**Sponsor: Western States Insurance**

Young students will have their own paperback books purchased with these funds to create weekly storytelling sessions in the evenings for pre-schoolers and parents. Students will not only enhance their reading skills but will learn self-confidence, a love of reading and will understand the importance of reading to their children when they become parents.

**3. Helena Valley Music Festival (\$2500)**

**School:** Rossiter School     **Teacher Recipient:** Virginia Wille

**Sponsor: Sandy Mac's Distributing**

Jim Darcy and Rossiter students will work together learning new music, analyze each other's performances and maximize their specific talents in this unique joint music festival. Incorporating the special instruments purchased with this grant, they will raise their level of work to a higher degree of proficiency as they learn about and study music from around the world.

**4. Podcasting in Social Studies (\$994)**

**School:** Capital High School     **Teacher Recipient:** Jason Neiffer

**Sponsor: Anderson Zurmuehlen & Co and Employee Benefit Resources**

Students and the instructor can embrace the powerful new tools of technology to interact with class content in a new and meaningful way instead of seeing the new media as a threat and distraction. Podcasts and "studycasts" will be recorded by both students and instructor for use anytime, anywhere, and broadcasts from around the world will provide unique learning opportunities.

**5. Building Brains and Brawn (\$3000)**

**School:** Capital High School     **Teacher Recipient:** Jeanne Tweeten

**Sponsor: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana**

While it is not unusual to see adults working out and listening to audiobooks, it is unusual to find students plugged into good books while working out. "Playaway" technology will allow students to listen to a "screaming" good young adult book while exercising, thus developing healthy, life-long habits both academically and physically.

**6. Jazz Artists in Residence (\$2500)**

**School:** Capital High School     **Teacher Recipient:** Angela Keedy

**Sponsor: Allegiance Benefit Plan Management, Inc.**

Bringing in two well known and jazz artists/educators to Helena will allow jazz band and choir students to experience "authentic" jazz more often found in urban settings. Students will not only receive direct instruction but elementary schools and the public will have the opportunity to hear a great performance by these artists and our students.

**7. Sparking an Interest (\$3000)**

**School:** CR Anderson Middle School

**Teacher Recipient:** Casey Lyndes

**Sponsor:** Mountain West Bank

Starting to learn about options for employment can happen even in middle school! Funds for this grant will be used to start a metal working class, sparking an interest or developing a solid foundation for students who may consider careers in the critically important welding and machining industries.

**8. Kids for Kids Audiobooks (\$2231)**

**School:** Hawthorne School

**Teacher Recipient:** Katy Wright

**Sponsor:** New West Health Services

Second grade students will collaborate with student authors to create a “Kids for Kids” audiobooks section at the local public library. They will not only improve their reading fluency but will develop creative writing skills while building a resource center for beginning readers in the community.

**9. Post Cards Home (\$502)**

**School:** Helena Middle School

**Teacher Recipient:** Terri Norman

**Sponsor:** Robert Peccia & Associates

By consciously looking for special strengths and talents in each student and sending home personal messages via postcards, teachers will reach out to individual students to emphasize that each one is important and special –and learn more about the students as well.

**10. Learning on the Move! (\$2515)**

**School:** Helena Middle School

**Teacher Recipient:** Terri Norman

**Sponsor:** Tim Ballweber, D.D.S.

Funds for this project will purchase materials needed for a new S’Cool Moves program which helps increase student achievement through innovative movement and focusing activities. Teachers trained in the program will use a wide variety of strategies to incorporate movement while teaching the basic curriculum.

**\* Grants are named after major donors to the Helena Education Foundation. The amounts of the grants do not reflect the contribution of the donor.**