

11 Great Ideas

you should hear about.

They're happening right here in Helena!



The Helena Education Foundation is proud to salute the Great Ideas Grant Program Fall 2008 Winners

...and the winners are:



What is the Great Ideas Grant Program?

Great Ideas grants put money directly into the hands of classroom teachers, empowering educators to turn their ideas for innovative teaching strategies into action. This program:

- Promotes effective and innovative teaching methods, and challenges teachers to improve student performance
- Helps teachers to extend student learning beyond the limits of textbooks
- Encourages teachers to strengthen ties between the classroom, other educators, parents, students, and Helena's community
- Funds projects to enhance student learning that do not receive tax-based funding

Partnering with Montana businesses:

Great schools are everyone's business. The Helena Education Foundation enriches the lives of our public school students every day through the generosity and support of local and state businesses.

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

1. A Day in the Life (\$1,758)

School: **Project for Alternative Learning**
Recipient: **Marie Rauch**
Sponsor: **Gough, Shanahan, Johnson & Waterman**

Students at the Project for Alternative Learning will experience a day in the life of a career mentor in the Helena community. Providing appropriate clothing for these students will help them fit into the business atmosphere and provide students with the confidence they need to succeed.



1

2. EEE! Science Explorers (\$2,922)

School: **Helena Middle School**
Recipient: **Mike Agostinelli**
Sponsor: **Valley Bank of Helena**

Teachers involved in EEE! Science Explorers will adapt coursework to mirror the technology rich environment scientists work in today. Using a district based online learning environment, students will daily collaborate, communicate, and engage in the learning process.



2

3. Expressing Yourself with Technology (\$1,740)

Schools: **Helena Middle School**
Recipient: **Tony Sawyer**
Sponsor: **D.A. Davidson & Company**

Students involved with this music project will learn how to use computers equipped with video recording hardware and software. The technology will be used to provide immediate feedback about how well they are performing on an instrument, singing, reciting poetry, and testing.



3

4. Extreme Makeover (\$3,000)

Schools: **Helena High School**
Recipient: **Lisa Parker**
Sponsor: **Crossman-Whitney-Griffin Architects**

The JMG students of Helena High School are going to give their Cupola Courtyard an "Extreme Makeover." With the assistance of welding, construction, drafting and art students, they will develop an area where students and staff can eat, study or relax in a safe and calming environment. The renovation will improve the overall look and feel of Helena High and will be available for all of their students and staff to enjoy.

5. GR8 Technology (\$642)

School: **Helena Middle School**
Recipient: **Amanda Curtis**
Sponsor: **Windermere Real Estate**

Students will participate in simulations and tutorials on the World Wide Web using a classroom projector. Teachers will implement new classroom technology to enrich student learning and foster dynamic educational experiences. Students will visit college websites to begin planning their academic careers as they decide which high school classes are right for them.

6. Just Click It (\$3000)

School: **Helena Middle School**
Recipient: **Amanda Curtis**
Sponsor: **Timothy Ballweber, D.D.S., M.S.**

Using remote answering devices, students will participate in individualized review and assessment. As each student responds to short answer or multiple-choice questions, data is immediately compiled and downloaded to the teacher's computer, providing opportunity for immediate feedback. Students are engaged and instruction time is increased.

7. Lights! Camera! Science! Second Grade Students Become Biologists (\$988)

School: **Smith Elementary**
Recipient: **Rose Ferriter**
Sponsor: **Alan and Nancy Nicholson**

The exciting world of nature will be experienced in both second grade classrooms at Smith through the use of a document camera and authentic specimens. Students will get up close and personal with life cycles of plants and animals. They will become "biologists" by learning, researching and presenting their work using an innovative approach.



Congratulations and thanks to the Helena Education Foundation

Fall 2008

Grant Recipients!

Amount funded to date:
over \$229,000

126 grants to date:
56 high school grants
7 PAL grants
27 middle school grants
34 elementary school grants

Teachers involved: over 80%
Students affected: over 3,000

8. Scribe to Screen: Short Story to Short Film, Montana Style (\$800)

School: **Helena High School**
Recipient: **Geoff Proctor**
Sponsor: **Surety Title**

This project brings together renowned Great Falls author Pete Fromm and Seattle-based, Missoula-bred filmmaker Matthew Clark to share their collaborative work *Dry Rain* with Helena High School students. Sessions will include in-class workshops, question and answer segments, and an evening screening of the short film.

9. Voices! (\$773)

School: **Hawthorne Elementary**
Recipient: **Erika McMillin**
Sponsor: **Jean Baucus**

"Voices" provides elementary students an opportunity to connect, share life experiences, histories and hobbies. Students will experience the importance and benefits of being connected to their community, while developing their writing and publishing skills. Through this project students will be involved in an intergenerational connection with retired community members in which they will utilize their writing skills to produce a biography of their senior partners.

10. The Power of Play (\$1,000)

School: **Helena Middle School**
Recipient: **Amanda Curtis**
Sponsor: **American Federal Savings Bank**

Students will enhance their math skills using various manipulatives and games. Teachers will implement new classroom techniques to enrich student learning and foster dynamic educational experiences. Math concepts will be presented in hands-on lessons that allow for achievement for all types of learners.

11. Technology Brings Indian Culture to Life (\$2,408)

School: **Smith Elementary**
Recipient: **Anna Thennis**
Sponsor: **Heritage Propane**

Second grade students will see Indian culture come to life in their classrooms as they engage in hands-on learning through the use of a SMART board. Students will develop a better understanding of the culture and heritage of Montana's first people through the integration of technology across the curriculum.

Would you or your business like to sponsor a Great Ideas grant or give a gift to the Helena Education Foundation?



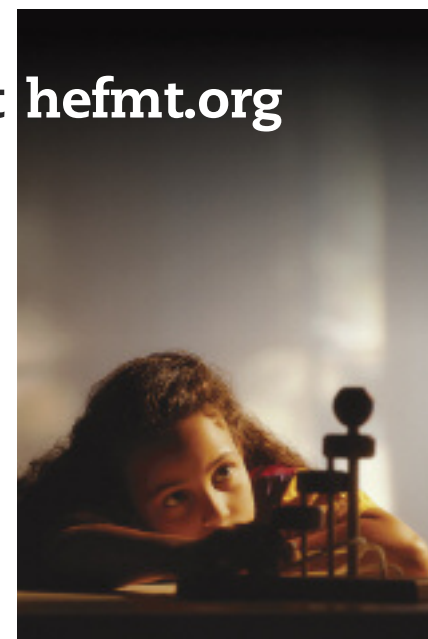
Make an investment in the future of your community today! Thanks to so many generous supporters, Great Ideas grants have helped make these ideas a reality:

- C.R. Anderson Middle School students bring Helena history alive producing films that combine research with historical video newscasts.
- Student-operated stores at Helena High and Capital High have upgraded their equipment to better serve the needs of their schools.
- Students at Four Georgians and Rossiter produce weekly news broadcasts and Warren School has enhanced its closed-circuit television system to increase student involvement and daily learning.
- A machining program has been developed for welding students at Helena High using Master CAM software.
- Students at Helena Middle School are learning on the move with a program that increases achievement through movement and focusing activities.
- More books are in the hands of students at Bryant School; audio books are available to students at Capital High; and historical novels enhance the physics curriculum at Helena High.
- High school students and teachers have traveled across the west and beyond on academic fact-finding and mentoring trips.

For more information about Helena Education Foundation upcoming events and programs, please visit HEF online at hefmont.org

The **MISSION** of the Helena Education Foundation is to enrich education in the Helena Public Schools through consistent community investment in time, talent, funding and other resources, providing students, staff and the community with unparalleled educational opportunities and experiences. The Foundation will achieve its mission by directing resources toward the following **GOALS**:

- Promoting and celebrating student academic success
- Increasing the visibility and value of Helena public schools
- Recognizing staff for creative and innovative teaching
- Promoting the understanding that everyone in the community is responsible for creating quality public education
- Inspiring parents, business and the community to participate with the school district in enriching education



YES! I believe great schools are everyone's business. I want to support this important public education partnership

Method of Payment:

Check enclosed \$ _____ (make checks payable to Helena Education Foundation)

I'd like to pledge \$ _____ Please bill me monthly quarterly
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Please contact me regarding a planned gift or gift of securities or other assets
The Foundation is a legally incorporated, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable and educational corporation, allowed to receive and distribute funds, property and gifts of any kind for the benefit of public schools located in Helena. It also maintains a qualified endowment. Planned gifts are eligible for the Montana State Tax Credit. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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I am a graduate or former student of the Helena Public Schools

School: _____

When/Graduation year: _____

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You can also make a donation online: www.hefmont.org