

13 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 Spring 2009 Winners

...and the winners are:



Congratulations

and thanks to the
Helena Education Foundation
Spring 2009 Grant Recipients!

Amount funded to date:
over **\$246,000**

- 139 grants to date:**
- 59 high school grants**
- 7 PAL grants**
- 30 middle school grants**
- 41 elementary school grants**

Teachers involved: **over 80%**

Enhanced the education and experiences
of **virtually all** of Helena's 8,000 students

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.

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

Partnering with Montana businesses:

“NorthWestern Energy is proud to participate in honoring these excellent Helena educators, and congratulates HEF for initiating programs like the Great Ideas Grants that have a positive impact on our children and the community.”
—HOWARD SKJERVEM, *Northwestern Energy*

“We have truly enjoyed partnering with HEF and want to continue to work together in the coming years to help provide opportunity as well as recognition for students and staff in your school district. Thanks again for inviting us to collaborate with your organization!”

—MIKE SHEFFIELD, *Lifetouch Photography*

1. All Fired Up! \$2,764

Recipient: **Molly Schmidt**

School: **Jefferson Elementary**

Sponsor: **Allegiance Benefit Plan Management**

Teachers are “All Fired Up” to make clay and glass projects in a kiln located at Jefferson Elementary School. This will open a new realm for creativity and support Jefferson’s cross-curricular, art integration program, MOSAIC. The kiln will allow students and teachers to experience ceramic art and glass projects with on-site firing capability.



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2. Body-Brain Integration \$1,000

Recipient: **Mary Seitz**

School: **Jefferson Elementary**

Sponsor: **State Employees Combined Giving Campaign**

Body-Brain Integration allows all elementary students in the Helena School District to learn the Bal-A-Vis-X program. Balance/Auditory/Visual Exercise is rhythmic series of movements with manipulatives that teach children to cross between their right and left brain hemispheres. This program supports learning in reading, math, spelling and writing as well as enhances physical motor skills.



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3. Exploring the Blackfeet \$350

Recipient: **Julie Mitchell**

School: **Ray Bjork Learning Center**

Sponsor: **Sandy Mac's Distributing**

8th and 9th grade students will come together to explore contemporary Blackfeet culture and its ties to the past to expand their knowledge of Montana’s cultural diversity. Students will research specific topics, meet with tribal experts, create designs and craft content for a museum exhibit for the community to learn from and enjoy.



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4. The Five Great Lessons \$2,065

Recipient: **Jodi Delaney**

School: **Broadwater Elementary**

Sponsor: **Peccia and Associates**

By experiencing “The Five Great Lessons” and using the materials purchased by this grant, first through fifth grade students at Broadwater Elementary will learn about everything from astronomy and geology to cultures, geometry, zoology and more.



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5. Flip for Great Videos! \$2,450

Recipient: **Terri Norman**

School: **Helena Middle School**

Sponsor: **Lifetouch**

The “HMS Flips for Great Videos!” project will incorporate fun, creativity, and learning for students and staff at Helena Middle School while they shoot and edit videos using new and emerging technology in exciting and innovative ways using flip video camcorders in the classroom and beyond.



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6. Hands-On, Minds-On Math \$1,999

Recipient: **Jen Mooney**

School: **Helena Middle School**

Sponsor: **Mountain West Bank**

This project will support sixth grade students at Helena Middle School by bringing interactive technology into the classroom, allowing for multiple learning opportunities. Students will manipulate information on a SMART board daily, enriching lessons and creating a dynamic classroom environment.



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7. Kid's Kitchen \$850

Recipient: **Jodi Delaney**

School: **Broadwater Elementary**

Sponsor: **Sodexo**

The Kid's Kitchen will allow students at Broadwater Elementary to apply healthy nutrition skills, learn about cultural heritage and diversity through food preparation and gain the self-confidence to know that they can be self-sufficient in the practical life skill of safe, sanitary and healthful cooking.



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8. Pura Vida! One World, Our World \$524.50

Recipient: **Jesse Franzen**

School: **Helena Middle School**

Sponsor: **Lewis Fund**

Eighth grade students at Helena Middle School will have the opportunity to learn about Latin American cultures by reading new novels, researching and presenting their knowledge to their peers and the community.



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9. Smart Art! Smart Boards Bring Masterpieces to Helena \$1,500

Recipient: **Shannon Matthies**

School: **Smith Elementary**

Sponsor: **Allegra Print and Imaging**

Students at Smith Elementary will view, interact and study art masterpieces from museums all around the world using a SMART board. This will allow for whole class work using information from art websites. Students will be able to explore artists and their work, while gaining in-depth understanding of the eras, elements and styles of certain artists.



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10. Socrates 2.0: Ancient Thinking for a Modern World \$696.50

Recipient: **Don Pogreba**

School: **Helena High School**

Sponsor: **Student Assistance Foundation**

The "Socrates 2.0" project will allow students at Helena High to apply knowledge from the world of ideas to a confusing world of ethical and philosophical dilemmas. They will explore the greatest thinkers in history, from all over the world, and apply their philosophies to current issues in our changing world.



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11. Teaching Today's Kids with Tomorrow's Technology \$1,000

Recipient: **Chelsie Jolley**

School: **Smith Elementary**

Sponsor: **Northwestern Energy**

The goal of the project is to close the achievement gap in math for students at Smith Elementary, who will be offered individualized time with a SMART board for enrichment and remediation, opening up a world of learning through this exciting technology.



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12. The Trial of Mark Twain \$800

Recipient: **Don Pogreba**

School: **Helena High School**

Sponsor: **Crowley Fleck, PLLP**

English students at Helena High will have the opportunity to explore a great American literary controversy, using the tools of legal analysis and argumentative reasoning. The project will deepen students' understanding of the novel, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, allowing them to explore important issues of race and identity in American literature while studying the basics of the legal system.



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13. You Have a Voice: \$1,839

Recipient: **Patricia Grassl**

School: **Jefferson Elementary**

Sponsor: **Beartooth NBC**

This project will assist students at Jefferson Elementary in learning how to be information artisans; people who can creatively and artistically reshape information and raw material into compelling information products through the use of camcorders and clay animation.



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



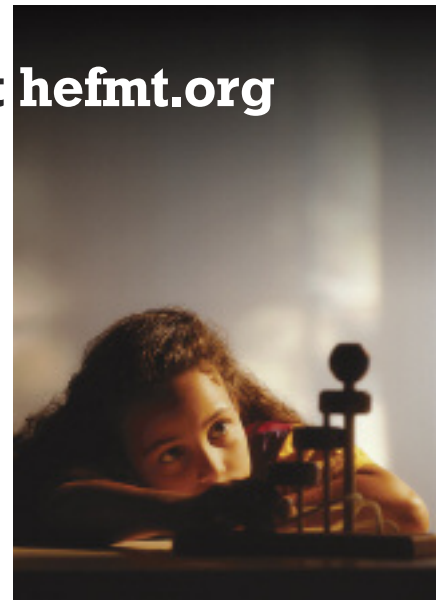
Make an investment in the future of your community today! Thanks to so many generous supporters, Great Ideas grants have helped make these ideas a reality:

- Helena High students are working on giving their courtyard an "Extreme Makeover". With the assistance of welding, construction, drafting and art students, the JMG students are developing an area where students and staff can eat, study or relax in a safe and pleasing environment.
- Students at the Project for Alternative Learning experience a day in the life of a career mentor in the Helena community, providing them with experience in a business atmosphere as well as the confidence they need to succeed.
- Second grade students at Smith Elementary are becoming biologists by getting up-close and personal with the life cycles of plants and animals through the use of a document camera and authentic specimens.
- Middle school music students at HMS and C.R. Anderson are using video technology to record and evaluate their performances to enhance their skills and share their knowledge.
- Kindergarten students in the entire school district learn The Safe Side Stranger Safety lessons in their classrooms, empowering them to make wise choices about safety.
- Hawthorne Elementary fifth graders connect with retired members of the Helena community in a project to share life experiences, histories and hobbies to produce biographies of their senior partners.
- Capital High and Helena High students are collaborating to create Montana native plant gardens at both high schools through the use of content knowledge, critical thinking skills and teamwork.

For more information about Helena Education Foundation upcoming events and programs, please visit HEF online at hefmt.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
payments of \$ _____ to begin _____
- MasterCard / VISA amount of \$ _____
Account No. _____ Expires: _____
Name on card: _____ Signature: _____
- 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.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

How would you like to be listed? _____

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

School: _____

When/Graduation year: _____

Send to: Helena Education Foundation
PO Box 792
Helena, MT 59624

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