



# 10 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 2009 winners**



## 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.



HEF Success Express!

## Partnering with Montana businesses:

“Great Ideas Grants provide a wonderful opportunity for businesses to show their support for innovative teaching. Thanks HEF for making it possible for us to feel a direct connection to enriching student’s learning experiences”

—TREVOR MACDONALD AND MARK JOHNSTON,  
*Sandy Mac’s Distributing*

“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. The Acropolis Kit:

**The 12 Olympian Gods** \$744

*Teacher:* **Jean O’Connor**

*School:* **Helena High School**

*Sponsor:* **Mountain West Office Solutions**

The Museum Kit of the Twelve Olympian Gods from the Acropolis Museum in Athens, Greece, will enhance the study of mythology for English students in grades nine and twelve at Helena High. The ancient stories of the Greek gods will come alive to students as they learn to identify mythological references of today.

### 2. Learning with Fire \$2,996

*Teacher:* **Kim Helseth**

*School:* **Jim Darcy Elementary**

*Sponsor:* **Gordon-Prill Inc.**

*Learning with Fire* merges powerful hands-on experiences of working with clay and the ceramic firing process with existing curriculum to provide unique and relevant enrichment activities. This grant will fund the purchase of a new kiln and clay for the K-5 students at Jim Darcy Elementary.

### 3. Lights, Camera, Education! \$3,000

*Teacher:* **Val Managhan**

*School:* **Jefferson Elementary**

*Sponsor:* **Mark and Sheri Johnston**

With a new document camera and projector, Jefferson Elementary teachers will bring larger than life visual images to their classrooms. Students will find the South Seas on world maps, see their epidermis up close and personal, count the rings on a tree, watch a pine beetle in action, and so much more. This tool will enhance students’ learning experiences with color, depth and life-size images!

### 4. M3 for Lunch Bunch \$979

*Teacher:* **Susan Cravens**

*School:* **Helena Middle School**

*Sponsor:* **Cherry Creek Radio**

Meeting twice a week during lunch time, middle school girls will sharpen their math skills

using the computer program, First in Math. They will engage in math projects and activities based on Danica McKellar’s best selling math books for girls and will meet women who use math daily in their careers.

### 5. Live from Jim Darcy, It’s Mustang News! \$2,000

*Teacher:* **Tracie Shepherd**

*School:* **Jim Darcy Elementary**

*Sponsor:* **Independent Record**

Jim Darcy fourth graders will create informative news reports delivered over the school-wide closed circuit television network. The students will report on current events, hot topics, math concepts, science inquiry, and historical facts as they relate to the school environment. They will learn about broadcasting, technology and video production. Tune in!

### 6. No Child Left Inside \$3,000

*Teacher:* **Christy Benning**

*School:* **Hawthorne Elementary**

*Sponsor:* **Dr. Tess Augustine and Dr. Michael Palcisko**

*No Child Left Inside* provides a unique opportunity for teachers and families to guide children in finding a balance between the technological and natural worlds. Second graders will use GPS receivers to go geocaching. The goal of the project is to take learning outside of the classroom, fostering relationships with nature and encouraging healthy lifestyles.

### 7. Smart Art Project \$1,835

*Teacher:* **Victor Daniel**

*School:* **Helena Middle School**

*Sponsor:* **Ron and Mignon Waterman**

The *Smart Art Project* will allow middle school students to instantly connect and engage with millions of fine art examples and interactive sites via the World Wide Web and a SMART Board. The program’s goal is to find new ways to reach and motivate the iPod generation by giving teachers new classroom technology. The result will be an enriched student learning environment that fosters dynamic educational experiences.



**Congratulations**

**Helena Education Foundation Fall 2009 Grant Recipients!**  
**Amount funded to date: over \$276,500**  
**148 grants to date involving over 80% of Helena's teachers**  
**62 high school grants      6 PAL grants**  
**32 middle school grants    48 elementary school grants**

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



**8. A Touch of Technology** \$3,000

*Teacher: Chelsie Jolley*  
*School: Smith Elementary*  
*Sponsor: D.A. Davidson*

A Touch of Technology targets students who do not have access to this generation's technology outside of their classrooms. This project provides students equitable access to technology by giving second graders the opportunity to check out iPod Touches for home use. Students will be listening to audio books and recording their reactions while increasing reading comprehension.

**9. You can Pick Your Friends...** \$1,400

*Teacher: Shelley Pelc*  
*School: Smith Elementary*  
*Sponsor: New West Health Services*

This collaborative unit will provide resources in a variety of formats to reinforce healthy habits for K-5th grade students at Smith Elementary. New library books, instruction to meet varied learning styles and students teaching students combine to curtail the spread of germs and improve personal hygiene.

**10. You're Never Too Young to Read** \$1,100

*Grant Recipient: Chelsea Segrest*  
*School: Ray Bjork Learning Center*  
*Sponsor: Montana Book & Toy Co.*

This project presents an opportunity to increase the availability of quality children's books in preschool students' homes. It will enhance the school to home connection for families by demonstrating how to read to children and supplying parents with engaging literature as well as meaningful projects to complete with their children.

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



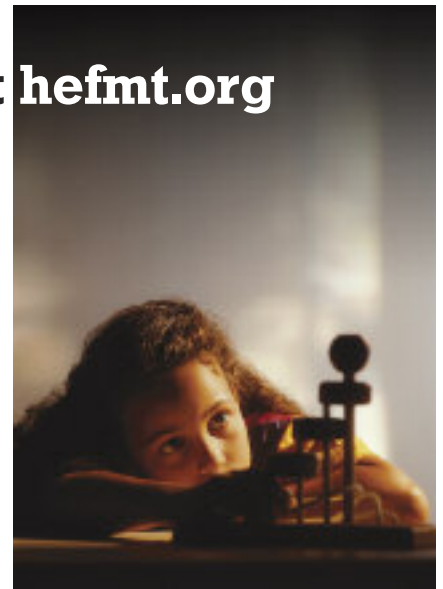
Make an investment in the future of your community today! Thanks to so many generous supporters, Great Ideas Grants have helped make these ideas a reality:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

## For more information about Helena Education Foundation upcoming events and programs, please visit HEF online at [hefmt.org](http://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](http://www.hefmt.org)