



10 Great Ideas

you should hear about.

They're happening right here in Helena!



The Helena Education Foundation is proud to salute the Spring 2010 winners of the Great Ideas Grant Program



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. Going Green \$1,800

Teachers: **Joslyn Carney and Helga Stimson**

School: **Four Georgians**

Sponsor: **Peccia and Associates**

The Four Georgians Going Green initiative will work with local experts to gain a greater understanding of environmental issues, research from new literature to develop mini lessons for adults and students in their schools and use creative minds to develop posters and a mural explaining the importance of recycling.

2. iWrite! \$2,670

Teacher: **Don Pogreba**

School: **Helena High School**

Sponsor: **Crowley Fleck, PLLP**

This project will create a space at Helena High, both virtual and physical, for students to develop their skills as writers in a welcoming environment. The iWrite! student-directed writing center will be equipped with print and electronic resources, where students will have the opportunity to write and edit using Apple iPads.

3. Moodle on the Move \$2,960

Teachers: **Kevin Cleary and Kelly Elder**

School: **CRA Middle School**

Sponsor: **Alan and Nancy Nicholson**

The excitement of Moodle in the palm of your hand! Middle school students will use the wireless iPod touch to connect to Moodle, the school’s online learning environment, in new and versatile ways. Whether exploring lessons about Montana or watching themselves perform on a musical instrument, Moodle will become mobile.

4. Project Yellowstone \$3,000

Teacher: **Erin Maxwell**

School: **Ray Bjork Learning Center**

Sponsor: **St. Peter’s Hospital**

Sixth and seventh grade students from CR Anderson and Helena Middle School will work ex-

tensively with MSU professors and students, Yellowstone researchers and park rangers, wildlife veterinarians and Fish, Wildlife and Parks biologists to research critical issues in Yellowstone National Park. The student written articles will be published in professional journals and presented at Earth Action at the Capitol.

5. Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Microscope \$1,149

Teacher: **Jim Schulz**

School: **Helena High School**

Sponsor: **Heritage Propane**

Students in CSI, Biology, and Senior Science Seminar classes at Helena High will engage in detailed digital microscopic examination, measurement, and analysis of subjects ranging from polyolefin fibers to sea urchin gametes using the latest in portable microscopic technology.

6. Smarter with SMART Board \$1,483

Teacher: **Reid Christensen**

School: **CRA Middle School**

Sponsor: **Mike Dalton**

Smarter with SMART Board will support 6th grade math students by bringing interactive technology into the classroom allowing for multiple ways of learning. Students will manipulate information on the SMART Board daily enriching learning and creating a dynamic classroom environment, while challenging themselves to a higher level of math thinking.

7. The Snowshoe Stomp! \$1,600

Teacher: **Jennifer Loomis**

School: **Capital High School**

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

The Physical Education department at Capital High is expanding their boundaries to the great outdoors by introducing students to an aerobic, fun and entertaining activity in the winter months. This grant will provide the snowshoes and Montana will provide the snow!



Congratulations

Helena Education Foundation *Spring 2010 Grant Recipients!*
Amount funded to date: *over \$296,000*
158 grants to date involving *over 80%* of Helena's teachers
67 high school grants 6 PAL grants
35 middle school grants 50 elementary school grants

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



8. Touch Screen Magic \$1,099
*Teachers: **Jeanne Tweeten and Joan Meyer***
*School: **Capital High School***
*Sponsor: **Sue and Duane Wright***

Using a touch screen kiosk, students will have the opportunity to browse library books by genre. The kiosk will allow the engaging book covers to jump out and grab their attention, something that doesn't occur when students are looking at the spines of 4,000 fiction books. Browsers will find good reads quickly and effortlessly before dashing off to their next class.

9. A Traditional Buffalo Hide Tanning \$2,250
*Teacher: **Mike Agostinelli***
*School: **Smith Elementary***
*Sponsor: **Valley Bank of Helena***

In this project, fourth graders will work through a traditional buffalo hide tanning while live blogging their process. In addition, students will create a video to document the process and teach other elementary students the impressive difficulty that Native American women went through to create these critical garments.

10. What's Growing On? \$1,920
*Teacher: **Claire Pichette***
*School: **Helena High School***
*Sponsor: **Sodexo***

High school students involved in What's Growing On will build an indoor hydroponic growing system, grow organic vegetables in the classroom, learn about food production and explore local options for food, cook meals using local ingredients, and present their research at Bryant Elementary School and at a community forum that they will plan and organize themselves.

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:

- Students at Jefferson and Jim Darcy Elementary schools are merging hands-on experiences of working with ceramics to provide unique art enrichment activities. The kilns at both schools allow students and teachers to learn ceramic art and glass projects with on-site firing capability.
- The “HMS Flips for Great Videos!” project is incorporating fun, creativity, and learning for middle school students 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.
- The “Socrates 2.0” project allows Helena High students to explore the greatest thinkers in history from all over the world, while applying their philosophies to current issues in our changing world.
- The “Kid’s Kitchen” project is teaching students at Broadwater Elementary to apply healthy nutrition skills, learn about cultural heritage and diversity through food preparation.
- Sixth grade math students at Helena Middle School are using interactive technology in the classroom, allowing for multiple learning opportunities. Students manipulate information on a SMART board daily, enriching math lessons and creating a dynamic classroom environment.
- Preschool students at the Ray Bjork Learning Center now have more books and literature projects available to take home and practice reading and listening to stories with their parents, enhancing the school to home connection for families.
- Teachers at Smith and Hawthorne Elementary schools are working to increase reading comprehension using iPod Touches. The students are also using GPS receivers to go Geocaching, giving them an opportunity to combine technology with nature.

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 _____
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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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Send to: Helena Education Foundation
PO Box 792
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You can also make a donation online:
www.hefmt.org