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The Helena Education Foundation is proud to salute the Autumn 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.



Partners with Helena businesses:

“ We look forward to sponsoring and participating in many of the wonderful opportunities HEF provides in the enrichment of our children’s Helena Public School education. Our students’ dreams and successes are our community’s future.”

—TIM LYNCH, *The Base Camp*

“ Mountain West Bank has been with the Helena Education Foundation since HEF’s inception. The Bank recognizes the need for a high quality public education system in Helena which provides strength to our community.

—MIKE DALTON, *Mountain West Bank*

1. Big Business

Teacher Recipient: **Willie Schlepp**

School: **Helena High School**

Sponsor: **NorthWestern Energy**

The Small Business Management and Marketing classes at Helena High School allow students to apply their marketing and customer service skills working in The Catty Shack. The Big Business project will support renovation of the school store and enhance the learning opportunities and work experience it provides for students at HHS.

2. Discover the World of Treasures

Teacher Recipient: **Terry Kirkeby**

School: **Jim Darcy Elementary**

Sponsor: **The Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation**

Teachers, students and families will come together to *Discover the World of Treasures* by experiencing how technology, the environment and community can inspire multiple learning opportunities. Students will be making decisions by using factual clues, compass and coordinate information from handheld GPS “Geomates” to hide and find Geocaches, increasing their understanding of global geography.

3. Modern Reporting in a Modern World

Teacher Recipient: **Joslyn Davidson**

School: **Capital High School**

Sponsor: **Dr. Jeff and Libby Goldes**

Capital High students will integrate new technology to report on news events as they happen, wherever they happen and replace the print-only newspaper by moving toward a paperless, online newspaper format. This project is designed to use modern technology such as i-Pads and the Internet to extend the reach of the school newspaper to the digital generation it serves.

4. Mystery Bus Tour and Maniacal Meal

Teacher Recipient: **Margaret Belisle**

School: **Helena High School**

Sponsor: **Ron and Connie Bergum**

This project will allow students taking English IV,

CSI: Forensic Science and Science Fiction to experience Helena’s past while riding the Haunted House Tour Train and learning about Helena’s rich history from Ellen Baumler. The students will also role play a crime mystery during a formal dinner. Mystery, Science Fiction and Forensic Science together will generate an evening of intrigue.

5. A Collection of Sound

Teacher Recipient: **Kevin Cleary**

School: **CRA Middle School**

Sponsor: **Student Assistance Foundation**

A library without books? That’s right, a music library! This project will fund three new music libraries in the school district for CRA, CHS and HHS and feature 50 classical recordings that National Public Radio rates as essential for every classical music collection. The project will also provide library listening stations so that every student can enjoy the magic of music.

6. Prints and Scrolls

Teacher Recipient: **Carol Bruderer**

School: **Rossiter Elementary**

Sponsor: **Greg Mortenson and Tara Bishop**

Helena artist, Phoebe Toland, will instruct the district’s 4th grade teachers and students in the art of printmaking. After studying the roles printed images play, student artists will create symbols on linoleum blocks and print them on a large classroom scroll that will be part of a community display. The *Prints and Scrolls* project will provide students with quality art experiences that come from working with a professional artist.

7. To Kindle a Love of Reading

Teacher Recipient: **Judy Ziegler**

School: **CRA Middle School**

Sponsor: **Helena Abstract and Title Company**

Middle school students who find it difficult to read standard ink and paper books will use Kindle e-readers which allow them to manipulate the size of the font and the number of words per line. Enabling students to read grade-appropriate books independently will inspire these students to read more books both at school and at home.



Congratulations

Helena Education Foundation Fall 2010 Grant Recipients!
Amount funded to date: over \$315,000
168 grants to date involving over 85% of Helena's teachers
71 high school grants 6 PAL grants
38 middle school grants 53 elementary school grants

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



8. Step Up to Healthy Living

Teacher Recipient: **Jodi Delaney**
School: **Broadwater Elementary**
Sponsor: **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana**

Using class sets of accurate, user-friendly pedometers, Broadwater Elementary students will scientifically gather, track and record data, anecdotally observe physical activity habits, critically evaluate health-related lifestyle behaviors, apply math skills to analyze and organize data, and translate their steps into geography activities in which they 'walk' to various global destinations.

9. Perform for a Cause

Teacher Recipient: **Julie Mitchell**
School: **Ray Bjork Learning Center**
Sponsor: **Sussex Construction**

High school GT students will stretch their creative and cultural boundaries in an investigation of South Africa's diverse cultural landscape and, in collaboration with Grammy-nominated Montana composer and pianist Philip Aaberg, produce a benefit show for Helena students and the community. *Perform for a Cause* is an interdisciplinary unit in which students will combine social studies, fine arts and service learning.

10. Caching-in in Montana

Teacher Recipient: **Gary Dalton**
School: **Helena High School**
Sponsor: **Allegiance Benefit Plan Management, Inc.**

This project will promote outdoor opportunities by giving students a tool to explore the great outdoors, locating Geocaches using GPS units. Students will collaborate with the HHS Art Department to develop original art to place in the Geocaches for others to find and enjoy. These adventures will encourage healthy lifestyles and an appreciation for the environment.

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 science students have built an indoor hydroponic growing system to grow organic vegetables in the classroom, learn about food production and explore local options for food. The students presented their research at Bryant Elementary School and at a community forum.
- Students at Jefferson Elementary and Jim Darcy Elementary are merging hands-on experiences of working with clay and the ceramic firing process with existing curriculum 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.
- Sixth grade math students at both C.R. Anderson Middle School and 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.
- Teachers at Smith and Hawthorne Elementary schools are collaborating to provide hands-on technology experience for their first and second graders. The classes are working to increase reading comprehension using iPod Touches to listen to audio books and record their reactions. The students are also taking learning outdoors when they use GPS receivers to go Geocaching, giving them an opportunity to combine technology with nature.
- The Physical Education department at Capital High is expanding its boundaries to the great outdoors by introducing students to snowshoeing for an aerobic, fun and entertaining activity during the winter months.
- The Four Georgians “Going Green” initiative is helping elementary students gain a greater understanding of environmental issues. Students are researching from newly purchased books to develop mini lessons for other students in their school and have designed a mural explaining the importance of recycling.

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 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
- Promoting and celebrating student academic success
- Increasing the visibility and value of Helena public schools
- Recognizing staff for creative and innovative teaching

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)
- 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.

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

Credit card payments are accepted online at www.hefmt.org

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How would you like to be listed? _____

I am a graduate/former student of the Helena Public Schools:

School: _____ When/Graduation year: _____