

TEN GREAT IDEAS
YOU SHOULD
HEAR ABOUT



hefmt.org

The Helena Education Foundation is
proud to salute the Autumn 2011 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:

“Valley Bank appreciates and thanks the Helena Education Foundation for the unique manner in which they support education in our community. They do things that would otherwise not be done and we are pleased to be their partner.”
—Andy O'Neill, Valley Bank

“Mosaic Architecture is proud to support the Helena Education Foundation including sponsorship of Great Conversations for the last three years. Mosaic is excited about the opportunities to work with all that make up the Helena educational network.”
—Ben Tintinger, Mosaic Architecture

1. Birds of a Feather

Recipient: **Marie Rauch**

School: **PAL**

Sponsor: **William and Helen Ballinger**

The Birds of a Feather class will empower PAL students to learn the art of bird watching and the science behind bird migrations. Staff and community volunteers will provide hands-on activities during several field trips to educate students on bird identification and characteristics, migration routes used and habitat needs.

2. Robot Encounter

Recipient: **Mike Agostinelli**

School: **C.R. Anderson Middle School**

Sponsor: **CDM**

Sixth and seventh grade students will have the opportunity to take the Robot Encounter class and build a variety of robots to compete in a series of design challenges that range from a jumping robot to a boxing robot. In addition, students will create an online manual to demonstrate the building process and share with other students around the district, bringing math and science to life.

3. The Solar Station

Recipient: **Jill Van Alstyne**

School: **Helena High School**

Sponsor: **Student Assistance Foundation**

The Solar Station project will give students the opportunity to learn sustainable technologies and gain an understanding of the science and math behind renewable energy. Students will view and process real-time data displayed at a school kiosk showing energy and weather data collected from the rooftop solar panels and sensors at Helena High.

4. Open Minds in the Outdoor Classroom

Recipient: **Beth Smaka**

School: **Broadwater Elementary**

Sponsor: **US Bank**

Schoolyard habitats provide an opportunity for students to experience the complexities of their environment; a student tallying insect species within a square-foot observation area perceives the world in a new way. Grab-and-Go Habitat Kits will provide teachers at Broadwater Elementary the lessons and materials needed to implement new and exciting instruction for their students in their outdoor classroom.

5. Montana Fishin' & Chips

Recipient: **Jim Weber**

School: **Capital High School**

Sponsor: **Morrison-Maierle**

Machining students at Capital High will be engineering and machining the components for building custom fishing rods. Students from the freshman English classes will be building their own fishing rods as part of their “A River Runs through It” unit in collaboration with the machining students. What a great way to get young people hooked on fishing in Montana.

6. Kids Taking Charge: iActive and Nutritious

Recipients: **Tami Jendro and Kim Helseth**

School: **Jim Darcy Elementary**

Sponsor: **Treacy Foundation**

Third graders will take the initiative for their own healthy lifestyle and fitness choices, equipped with engaging tools, information and activities with community experts and through the use of iPod Touches. Students will use technology to plan healthy meals, track nutrition and exercise, research health topics and develop fitness videos.

7. Kindles in the Classroom: A Whole New World!

Recipient: **Lynn Trenary**

School: **Warren Elementary**

Sponsor: **Washington Foundation**

Kindle e-readers will bring a whole new world of reading to students at Warren Elementary, promoting a lifelong love of reading. Current and dynamic reading materials will be available to students at their own level for use by individuals, partners, cross age reading buddies and literature groups. Adventure, mysteries, animals, history...the sky is the limit!

Thank you to our Fall 2011 grant sponsors:

Treacy Foundation

 **First Interstate Bank**

 **Montana Broom & Brush**
SANITARIUM - PAPER - RESTAURANT SUPPLIES

William and Helen Ballinger

 **STUDENT ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION**

CDM

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Speyer Visual Arts Grant

 **MORRISON MAIERLE, INC.**



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Congratulations!

Helena Education Foundation Autumn 2011 Grant Recipients

Amount funded to date: **Over \$350,790**

187 grants involving over **85%** of Helena's teachers

78 high school grants **41 middle school grants**

7 PAL grants **61 elementary school grants**

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



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8. Independence is Priceless

Recipients: **Erika McMillin and Marta Ernst**

Schools: **Hawthorne Elementary and Jim Darcy Elementary**

Sponsor: **Montana Broom and Brush**

Children with special needs require constant repetitive direct instruction to obtain the skill needed to become independent in some (not limited) areas of academics. Independence is Priceless will provide Hawthorne and Jim Darcy Elementary children with special needs enrichment through visual, tactile and auditory engagement with technology using the iPad2.

9. iSpy: A Wetland Riparian Area Field Investigation

Recipient: **Tina Brothers**

School: **Jim Darcy Elementary**

Sponsor: **First Interstate Bank**

Students at Jim Darcy Elementary will get “knee deep” in learning as they use their critical thinking and observation skills in an outdoor setting. Using iPod Touches, students will conduct their own field investigations in a wetland and riparian area. Combining nature with useful technology will create an engaging experience that connects science and math.

10. The Art and Science of Photography, 1842-2011

Recipient: **Katie Knight**

School: **Helena Middle School**

Sponsor: **Speyer Visual Arts Grant**

Helena High art students will create an exhibition of self-portraits using the beautiful 170-year process of cyanotype printing. Students will explore the art and science of photography, guided by two professional photographers and two photography teachers, using digital cameras, studio lights and the latest computer software to produce their negatives.

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 187 great ideas a reality. Here are some highlight grants from 2010-11:

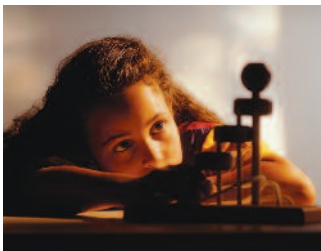
- Students at Helena Middle School have been “getting caught” listening to audiobooks. This project is broadening reading interests, increasing reading comprehension and promoting academic excellence for even the most reluctant readers. Helena Middle School students also now have access to e-readers at their library through the “Nook for Reading” project.
- The snow is flying and students at Four Georgians Elementary are out exploring using their new snowshoes. Young adventurers will map their destinations and challenge their physical strength while enjoying winter in Montana.
- Helena High students are “On the Trail of Native American Art” in their Art History and Design Applications classes. They have been exploring the rich visual history left upon the land through Native American pictographs, petroglyphs, medicine wheels and archeological sites.
- Kessler Elementary students have constructed a bird watch feeder program in conjunction with the Nature Space at their school. They are learning to collect and analyze data using iPod Touches and are collaborating with Cornell University and community volunteers.
- High school students from Capital and Helena High spent a weekend at a German language immersion workshop. Students enrolled in German class came together to speak, play, cook and immerse themselves in the kind of all-German environment that cannot be created in the classroom.
- The “Prints & Scrolls” project brought local artist Phoebe Toland to every 4th grade classroom in the Helena School District to instruct students and teachers in the art of printmaking. Rossiter Elementary’s beautiful display was featured at the Holter Museum of Art last spring.

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 resrouces, 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: _____