

12 GREAT IDEAS

The Helena Education Foundation salutes the
Fall 2012 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.

\$394,966 Over \$394,966 funded to date

209 grants involving over **85%** of Helena teachers

87 High school grants

46 Middle school grants

7 PAL grants

69 Elementary school grants

Great Ideas Grants have enhanced the education and experiences of virtually all of Helena's 8,000 students over the past ten years!

1. An Apple a Day

Recipient: Kim Stout & Jane Shawn

School: Four Georgians Elementary

Sponsor: St. Peter's Hospital

"An Apple a Day" will put iPod Touch devices in the hands of first graders to help them increase reading and math fluency. This 21st Century technology meets students at their learning curve, and provides an innovative student engagement technique to supplement traditional teaching methods.

2. And My Next Question Is...

Recipient: Mary Larsen

School: Jefferson Elementary

Sponsor: Northwestern Energy

Young 5th grade scientists at Jefferson Elementary will work with mentors from various colleges and universities, through live video chat conferencing using iPod Touches, to complete hands on investigations in science and engineering.

3. Beauty is in the iPad of the Beholder

Recipient: Victor Daniel & Michael Kepler

School: Helena Middle School

Sponsor: Jon Satre and Paulette Etchart

"Beauty is in the iPad of the Beholder" will allow HMS students to learn about digital art, photography, and video editing using iPads and will help meet common core reading requirements by giving students increased access to online arts publications.

4. Bones & Eyes: Oh, the Stories They Tell about You!

Recipient: Sandy Wardell

School: Helena High School

Sponsor: Helena High Class of '62

The Biomedical Sciences Pathway classes allow students to experience a variety of current job skills and opportunities available to them in the medical sciences. By providing hands-on experiences using models of the human eye and bone identification kits, students gain valuable laboratory and critical thinking skills while learning about career options in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

5. Building Future Engineers through Lego Robotics

Recipient: Nancy Peterson & Joe Crider

Schools: Kessler & Smith Elementary schools

Sponsor: Morrison-Maierle

"Building Future Engineers through Lego Robotics" will allow students to draw on their imagination and the engineering process to construct Lego Mindstorms NTX Robots. With the help of their robot, students will use cross disciplinary skills to complete a series of challenges and solve problems connected to their community and the real world.

6. Gone Fishin'

Recipient: Jennifer Loomis

School: Capital High School

Sponsor: Rick Pyfer

Montana is "The Last Best Place" and Capital High is ready to infuse students with enthusiasm for the great outdoors. Our geography lends itself to many different fishing styles and experiences; people can fish in lakes, ponds, streams and rivers. This grant will provide students with the equipment they will need to experience fishing and get hooked on this lifetime sport.

7. Hand in Hand: One School, One Book

Recipient: Linda Lynch

School: Central Elementary

Sponsor: US Bank

A miraculous journey is about to begin...imagine the learning opportunities when staff and students along with their families are all reading *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* at the same time! This is a project designed to create a shared reading experience throughout the Central School community.

8. A History in the Making

Recipient: Kellie Goyins

School: Warren Elementary

Sponsor: Robert Peccia and Associates

Fifth graders at Warren Elementary will incorporate art, music, drama and technology to bring American History to life, recording their projects throughout the year and ending with a full-length motion picture of their study of our country's past.

9. Family Resource Center

Recipient: Jodi Delaney

School: Broadwater Elementary

Sponsor: First Interstate Bank

The Broadwater Elementary Family Resource Center at Carroll College will support students and families through fun activities, homework help, internet access and connecting families to community organizations. School staff will volunteer after school to provide opportunities for one-on-one support and developing positive working relationships with our families. Stop in, the coffee's on!

10. iFluent

Recipient: Samantha Newsom

School: Helena Middle School

Sponsor: Montana Broom and Brush

iPad technology will allow struggling readers to have exciting reading experiences at their fingertips. The iFluent program will give students in the Special Education program at HMS the opportunity to build the bridge between decoding and comprehension, as they strive to become fluent readers in today's growing society.

11. iKnow iCan

Recipient: Katie Johnson

School: Helena High School

Sponsor: Sandy Mac's Distributing

iKnow iCan will support special education students with a variety of learning needs, enhancing and accommodating the general education curriculum by providing accessibility through the use of iPads, learning applications at Helena High.

12. Movies in Our Hands

Recipient: Kevin Cleary

School: C.R. Anderson Middle School

Sponsor: Bill and Helen Ballinger

"Movies in Our Hands" will turn middle school music students into movie producers! Using the powerful media recording and editing capabilities of the iPod Touch and drawing on disciplines outside the music classroom, students will turn an idea for a movie into a reality. Students will explore a different avenue of their musical and artistic selves, bringing energy to their work on performance skills and providing a new way to share their music.

Congratulations!

Helena Education Foundation
Fall 2012 Grant Recipients

Showcasing Grant sponsors:

"US Bank is proud to partner with the Helena Education Foundation's Great Ideas Grants program. The "Hand in Hand, One School, One Book" project promises to be an engaging educational experience for the students, teachers and family members involved."

—Tom Dwyer, US Bank

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



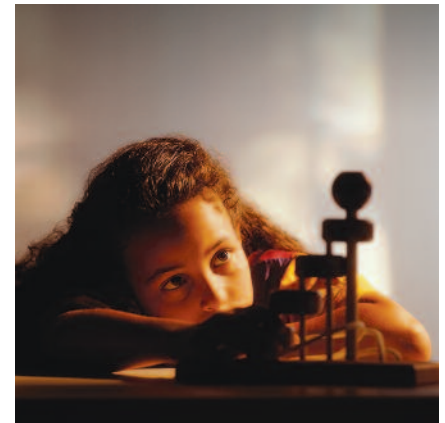
Make an investment in the future of your community today! Thanks to so many generous supporters, Great Ideas Grants have helped make 209 great ideas a reality. Here are some grant highlights:

- ▶ As world demand for electricity and fuels continues to grow exponentially, the need for our population to understand the possibilities of alternative energy sources becomes greater every day. A strong foundation and understanding of different energy technologies will benefit not only the students but society as a whole. Science students at Helena High will explore different energy transformations and particularly hydrogen fuel cell technology.
- ▶ Industrial Technology students at Capital High are busy making metal projects using fusion welding and plasma arc cutting. The projects are designed by drafting students and the industrial technology students construct projects based on those plans. Safety equipment included!
- ▶ Guitar Into It brings a new and exciting approach for C.R. Anderson Middle School students to learn and apply musical concepts needed to be successful in Chorus, Orchestra and Band. Learning guitar in the classroom with a full set of guitars, students tap into the popular culture of their generation, perhaps inspiring many to be lifelong musicians.
- ▶ Unlocking the Iron Chef within You provides Helena Middle School students an arena to showcase their collaborating, writing, creating, interviewing, filming, editing and cooking talents. Students utilize their learning styles and multiple intelligences by creating a culinary experience for their peers, family, school and community.
- ▶ I Spy with My Microscopic Eye! Teachers at Kessler Elementary are utilizing Scope-on-a-Rope to create observant learners while uniting technology and discovery through methods of investigation, perspective, and scientific inquiry across all curricular areas. These hand held camera microscopes will excite budding young scientists for many years to come.

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

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