



11 GREAT IDEAS

The Helena Education Foundation awards
Fall 2014 Great Ideas Grants



1. A Philharmonic Extravaganza

Teacher Recipient: Tyson Reiter

School: Helena Middle School

Sponsor: Tim Speyer

A Philharmonic Extravaganza will combine 8th grade band and orchestra students for a concert performance of an original piece of music specifically written for their group. Students will use their musical skills to put on a performance that will cap off their 8th grade year with style and pizzazz!

2. Adventures in Kindergarten Engineering

Teacher Recipient: Emily Hankins

School: Kessler Elementary School

Sponsor: Morrison Maierle, Inc.

Adventures in Kindergarten Engineering will put expertly selected toys and activities into the hands of kindergarten students in an effort to spark imagination, creativity and interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (or STEAM).

3. Bring your 'A' Game to Work!

Teacher Recipient: Jim Weber

School: Capital High School

Sponsor: Student Assistance Foundation

Lack of "work ethic" is the number one problem facing the American work force, which has a negative impact on our local communities, and our nation. The purpose of this grant is to address this issue by implementing the "Bring your 'A' game to work" work ethic curriculum in our classes.

4. By Snowcoach, Skis, or Snowshoes

Teacher Recipient: Missy Sampson

School: Helena High School

Sponsor: Bill Walter

By Snowcoach, Skis and Snowshoes allows students to be scientists, students, community members, teachers and active participants in the world around them. They will touch, observe, listen, question, write, and most importantly develop a positive relationship with Yellowstone and its inhabitants.

5. Designing a Medical Innovation

Teacher Recipient: Tyler Hollow

Schools: Helena High School

Sponsor: St. Peter's Hospital

Designing a Medical Innovation will provide Health Career Pathway students the opportunity to extend their classroom learning through innovative, hands-on STEM experiences using state-of-the-art 3-D printing technologies to design, refine and share new medical innovations. This technology will expand students' capabilities within Health Career Pathway courses and beyond.



6. Educational Tools to Enhance Foundational Skills

Teacher Recipient: Ashlie Buresh

School: Kessler Elementary School

Sponsor: Sandy Mac's Distributing

This grant will foster a love for learning in children by making learning meaningful and fun. Forty-five students will have the opportunity to use Tablets two times daily to enhance their lessons. These tools will give students an introduction to technology while they choose games that encourage creative learning.

7. Full STEAM Ahead: Technology Meets Music Literacy

Teacher Recipient: Abigail Nyoff

School: Warren Elementary School

Sponsor: Bill and Helen Ballinger

Full STEAM Ahead will allow K-5 students to strengthen their music literacy skills using interactive technology to aid in composing and notating music. With the combination of an interactive projector, an iPad, and Apple TV, students will be able to manipulate notes and rhythms in real time, and gain a better understanding of counting and reading.

8. Multi-Matic Welding for a Multi-Tasking World

Teacher Recipient: Tom Kain

School: Capital High School

Sponsor: Sodexo

The purpose of the project is to enhance welding skills of students in CHS's welding program by purchasing a Miller Multi-Matic welder. The welders would be utilized while students are learning basic fundamentals of welding, completing personal welding fabrication projects, and constructing community and school improvement projects.

More HEF events and programs at
www.hefmt.org

9. See It All!

Teacher Recipient: Joice Franzen

School: Bryant Elementary School

Sponsor: Helena Great Northern Hotel

Students will See It All! As students engage in collaboration and research lessons they will be visually supported with dual screens. The projections will provide students with access to original sources, note-taking templates, and rubrics simultaneously. Further, students will model collaboration as they develop key research skills.

10. Voices in My Head: An Adventure in Audiobooks

Teacher Recipients: Krista Boutilier and Jill Hanson

School: CR Anderson Middle School

Sponsor: Anderson ZurMuehlen

Voices in My Head: An Adventure in Audiobooks aims to improve test scores, increase vocabulary, and develop greater comprehension and language acquisition through one simple, painless, enjoyable activity... listening! Specifically, listening to audiobooks. Students have the opportunity to enjoy audio library materials, even outside of school.

11. What's In Your DNA, Anyway?

Teacher Recipient: Christine Thennis

School: Helena High School

Sponsor: PacificSource

The Biomed program prepares students for science careers; students solve real science problems. Labs support Biomed through laboratory-based investigations, improving students' ability to apply research tools to relevant questions. Laboratory investigations link the four-year content together, increasing meaning for students, providing more hands-on lab experiences, group field trips and guest speakers to bring relevance and rigor to the study of human DNA, genetics and the factors that can lead to cancer and diabetes.

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.



To date, HEF has awarded **251** grants, totalling more than **\$506,847** and involving more than **85%** of Helena's teachers:

106
High school grants

51
Middle school grants

9
PAL grants

88
Elementary grants

Great Ideas Grants have enhanced the education and experiences of virtually all of Helena's students over the last 12 years.

Great Ideas Grant sponsor:
ST. PETER'S HOSPITAL

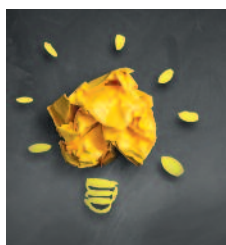
“A strong, vibrant community is marked by its investment in education. We support HEF because HEF supports the growth and aspirations of youth in our community—and the next generation of caregivers for all of us.”

—Nate Olson, President & CEO, St. Peter's Hospital

**Thank you to the HEF
Fall 2014 grant sponsors:**

Sandy Mac's Distributing
Tim Speyer
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Bill Walter
St. Peter's Hospital

Bill and Helen Ballinger
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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 251 great ideas a reality. Here are some grant highlights:

- ▶ **Can You See it Now? Teaching Chemistry through Models and Demonstrations.** Chemistry can be a difficult subject to grasp because students cannot “see” the particles that they are studying. Using models and chemical demonstrations, Helena High chemistry students are experiencing chemical concepts in a kinesthetic and visual manner, gaining a deeper understanding of the particle nature of our world.
- ▶ **Common Kore for All:** Sitting in traditional classroom chairs for the entire day is a challenge for anyone. Our bodies need movement if we want them to function at their best. Bryant Elementary students have been enjoying a new type of seat. Kore Active Chairs allow students to wiggle just enough to keep their brains and bodies active.
- ▶ **Darkening the Ultraviolet World of Electric Arc Welding:** Welding students at Capital High have had the opportunity to use high-tech, auto-darkening weld helmets to accurately and precisely produce welds in electric arc welding applications. The helmets help the students progress in the world of welding, gaining greater skills while maintaining high safety standards.
- ▶ **Look, Learn, Create! Partnership:** The Look, Learn, Create Partnership has helped teachers integrate arts education while addressing new curriculum challenges and has served Four Georgians Elementary students by providing opportunities to become engaged in the classroom and receive arts instruction. This program builds on the relationship between Helena Schools and the Holter Museum of Art.
- ▶ **Mind Fullness:** Students at Rossiter Elementary have been enjoying daily opportunities to practice skills that enhance attention—to focus and calm the body and mind. The goal of the Mind Fullness project is to improve students’ ability to regulate emotions and behavior resulting in increased academic performance and decreased problem behaviors.
- ▶ **Reaping Rewards through Robots:** Reaping Rewards through Robots uses simple robots to encourage and challenge Helena High students who already program and those who are hesitant to even try programming. Students are motivated to pursue one of the many computer careers after learning with these Arduino Robotic components.

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 of time, talent, funding and other resources, providing students, staff and the community with unparalleled educational opportunities and experiences. The Foundation achieves its mission by directing resources toward the following **GOALS**:

- Promote the understanding that everyone in the community is responsible for creating quality public education
- Inspire parents, businesses and the community to participate with the school district to enrich education
- Celebrate student academic success
- Increase the visibility and value of Helena public schools
- Recognize 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
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Credit card payments are accepted online at www.hefmt.org



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