



9 GREAT IDEAS

The Helena Education Foundation awards
Spring 2015 Great Ideas Grants



1. A+ Readers

Teacher Recipient: Ashlie Buresh

School: Kessler Elementary School

Sponsor: Crowley Fleck, PLLP

This grant will foster a love for learning by giving kindergarten students choice in their reading. The grant funds the purchase of books for the classroom library, providing 45 students with more book choices according to their reading level, giving eager kindergarten students books that interest them is a powerful way to improve their reading skills.

2. Working Together to Make Us Better

Teacher Recipient: Emily Hankins

School: Kessler Elementary School

Sponsor: Dr. Will Harper

Working Together to Make Us Better puts cooperative board games into the hands of kindergarten students in an effort to build communication skills, teach fair play and encourage teamwork.

3. Automotive Technology Diagnostic Improvement

Teacher Recipient: Veronica Robertson

School: Helena High School

Sponsor: Lithia Chevrolet of Helena

The *Automotive Technology Diagnostic Improvement* grant will allow for the purchase of diagnostic and repair equipment needed to train students to work on the modern, highly technical vehicles that are on the road today. Students will gain experience and competence to help prepare them for careers or future training.

4. Do You Hear What I Hear?

Teacher Recipient: Shannon McNamee

School: Ray Bjork Learning Center

Sponsor: First Interstate Bank

Preschool-aged students (ages 3 to 5 years old) will have their hearing accurately screened with an otoacoustic emission screening tool (OAE). OAE is specially designed for younger students whose developmental level prohibit accurate readings by traditional screening tools. This screening will identify potential hearing loss, which is critical for early intervention



and treatment to prevent delays in learning language, communication and early academic skills.

5. iCan, iWill Succeed and Explore!

Teacher Recipient: Kristen Uggetti-Lyndes

Schools: Smith Elementary School

Sponsor: Montana Broom and Brush

iCan, iWill Succeed and Explore provides students with enrichment and supportive materials through the use of iPads, iPad applications, and iBooks. These tools will teach students technology skills that they will be able to use throughout their educational careers and lives.

6. M4 (Mini Maestros Making Music)

Teacher Recipient: Talor Darfler

School: Hawthorne Elementary School

Sponsor: Bill and Helen Ballinger

Kindergarten keyboards will provide students with the opportunity to practice songs and sounds they learn in music and support general academic growth. Brain research indicates that musical training enhances brain function and learning capacity throughout life. For our youngest learners, this M4 program will provide the equipment, enticement and engagement that will help our mini maestros thrive!

7. Music Ace Maestro

Teacher Recipient: Michael Carella

School: Jim Darcy Elementary School

Sponsor: Ron and Connie Bergum

Music Ace Maestro will give students the opportunity to study music theory at their own pace using a computer program. The program enables them to evaluate, record and view progress of each lesson. The skills they master prepare students for success in required middle school music courses.

8. See You at the Opera!

Teacher Recipient: Kevin Cleary

School: C R Anderson Middle School

Sponsor: In Memory of Patrick Quinn

See You at the Opera! is what Helena students have said for six years. The excited young learners who attend live Saturday broadcasts from the MET want to share their experiences with the Helena community. With “Helena Opera Club” activities, students celebrate their operatic pride and see everyone at the opera!

9. Adopting Yellowstone

Teacher Recipient: Missy Sampson

School: Helena High School

Sponsor: Helena High School Class of ‘62

Adopting Yellowstone 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 personal relationship with Yellowstone and its inhabitants.”

Great Ideas Grant sponsor: TIMOTHY BALLWEBER, DDS

“A meaningful education is the instrument to develop one’s greatest gifts and potential. Education can further develop ones’ purpose in life, not only to oneself, but also helps to inspire and positively impact others. I recognize that everything I am and have is a direct result of education of some sort. This ability to develop the individual potential is the opportunity I want for our youth. This is why I am so pleased to support the HEF and education in Helena.”

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.

More HEF events and programs at
www.hefmt.org



Thank you to the HEF Spring 2015 grant sponsors:

Helena High School Class of '62
Bill and Helen Ballinger
Ron and Connie Bergum
In Memory of Patrick Quinn
Montana Broom and Brush
First Interstate Bank
Lithia Chevrolet of Helena
Dr. Will Harper
Crowley Fleck, PLLP

To date, HEF has awarded **260** grants,
totalling more than **\$523,289** and involving
more than **85%** of Helena's teachers:

108 High school grants

9 PAL grants

52 Middle school grants

94 Elementary grants

Great Ideas Grants have enhanced the education and experiences
of virtually all of Helena's 8,000 students over the last 12 years.



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 260 great ideas a reality. Here are some grant highlights:

- ▶ **What's In Your DNA, Anyway?** The Biomed program prepares students for science careers. Students solve real science problems. Labs would support Biomed through laboratory-based investigations, improving student's ability applying research tools to relevant questions. Laboratory investigations link the four-year content together, increasing meaning for students. With the help of this grant, students gain more hands-on lab experiences, group field trips and guest speakers bring relevance and rigor to the study of human DNA, genetics and the factors that can lead to cancer and diabetes.
- ▶ **A Philharmonic Extravaganza:** A *Philharmonic Extravaganza* combines 8th grade band and orchestra students for a concert performance of an original piece of music specifically written for their group. Students use their musical skills to put on a performance that will cap off their 8th grade year with style and pizzazz!
- ▶ **Full STEAM Ahead: Technology Meets Music Literacy:** *Full STEAM Ahead* allows 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 AppleTV, students will be able to manipulate notes and rhythms in real time, gaining a better understanding of counting and reading.
- ▶ **Designing a Medical Innovation:** *Designing a Medical Innovation* provides 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 expands students' capabilities throughout Health Career Pathway courses and beyond.
- ▶ **Multi-Matic Welding for a Multi-Tasking World:** This project enhances welding skills of students in our welding program by purchasing two Miller Multi-Matic welders. The welders are utilized while students are learning fundamentals of welding, completing personal welding fabrication projects, along with constructing community and school improvement projects.

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
Helena, MT 59624

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



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

How would you like to be listed? _____

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

School: _____ When/Graduation year: _____

We at HEF are thoughtful, responsible, and efficient stewards of donations we receive and we practice transparency and accountability.