

The Helena Education Foundation awards **Fall 2015** Great Ideas Grants





1. Learning in Motion

Teacher Recipient: Adrienne (Christy) Heun

School: Rossiter Elementary

Sponsor: Bill and Helen Ballinger

Creative movement will help more than 1000 4th and 5th graders learn about science when they participate in the University of Montana's CoMotion Dance Project's Interactive production called "Fire Speaks the Land." This 50 minute production uses dance and original music to teach science by actively engaging the students in learning.



2. Mixing Things Up!

Teacher Recipient: Carrie McCue

School: Smith Elementary

Sponsor: Van's Thriftway

Mixing Things Up! offers students with special needs a chance to practice life skills through cooking exercises in the classroom, allowing hands-on learning and promoting independence for the children as they learn how to follow directions, budget with a shopping list, find items in a store, apply math concepts to recipes, handle food safely and prepare healthy snacks.



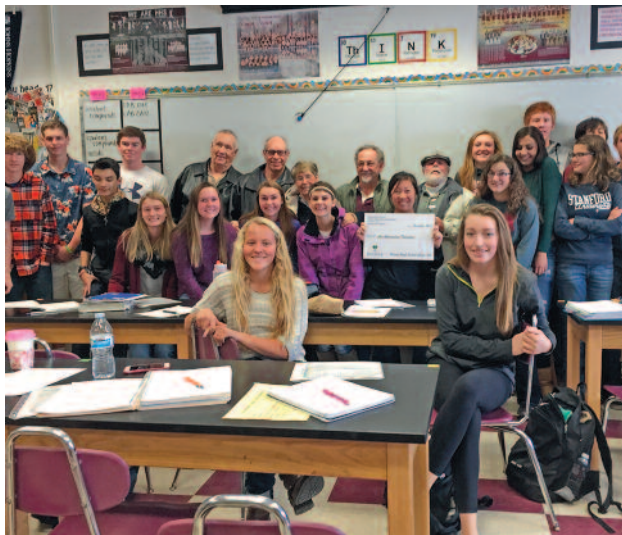
3. Prototype to Part

Teacher Recipient: Jim Weber

School: Capital High

Sponsor: Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation

Students in the machining program at Capital High School will be able to go from idea to prototype in a matter of days, using their new 3D printer. Printing a 3D model of a part in order to check for functionality, design, and fit before beginning the machining process replicates the real world of modern manufacturing. CHS language arts students reading *A River Runs through It* will also use the printer to build fishing reels as a continuation of a previous HEF grant "Montana Fishin' and Chips."



4. An Alternative Titration

Teacher Recipient: Denise Thomas

School: Helena High

Sponsor: Helena High School Class '62

An analytical balance and reusable polyethylene wash bottles for second year chemistry students will allow them to conduct college level gravimetric titration and compare the results to a traditional volumetric titration. Students will have the opportunity to employ the method during labs throughout the year, share findings on the accuracy of each method and explore advantages and disadvantages of both techniques.



5. Kids are Geniuses

Teacher Recipient: Marla Unruh

Schools: Broadwater Elementary

Sponsor: Dowl

Students in "The Genius Club" will gain access to digital learning in science through a collection of e-books and maker kits. Not only will these digital and hands-on tools expose students to science in new ways, but also to concepts in technology, engineering, art, and math. Carefully selected digital and hands-on tools add creative elements of discovery learning to the usual classroom approach of direct instruction, modeling, and practice. Students in the club will meet during lunch-time sessions to pursue their questions and try out their results.



6. Geysers and Bison and Wolves, Oh My!

Teacher Recipient: Erin Finstad

School: Bryant Elementary

Sponsor: US Bank

Fourth grade students at Bryant School will spend 2 days in Yellowstone National Park exploring the Geyser Basin and Lamar Valley with a professional guide. Classroom lessons related to Yellowstone National Park will prepare students to engage with scientists, rangers and educators in a variety of settings. Thanks to the new White House youth initiative "Every Kid in a Park," all fourth grade students can receive free passes into all national parks for the 2015-2016 school year.

Find HEF info, events and programs at
www.hefmt.org



7. Listening, Learning: A Leg Up for Young Musicians

Teacher Recipient: Abby Nyhof
School: Warren Elementary
Sponsor: Treacy Foundation

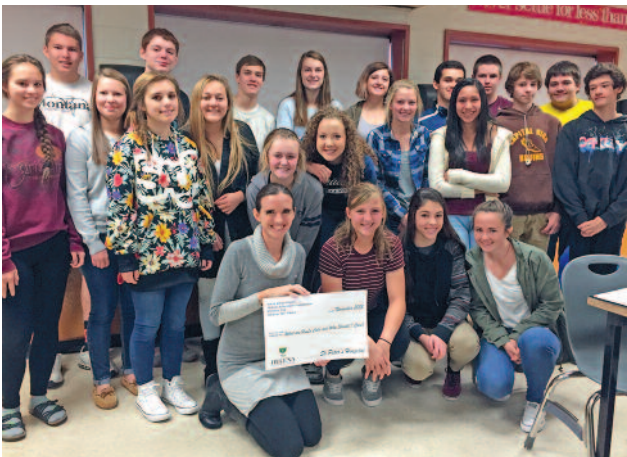
Listening, Learning: A Leg Up for Young Musicians will help every student become “tuneful, beatful, and artful” musicians through the use of a Lightspeed Topcat classroom amplification system. Students learn best when they have the opportunity to clearly hear their teacher’s singing voice as well as the solo voices of their classmates. This music classroom will use a Lightspeed Topcat system to amplify both teacher and student voices along with musical excerpts and other examples.



8. Connecting the World with Flags

Teacher Recipient: Patrick Rieley
School: Rossiter Elementary
Sponsor: Tim and Piper Lynch

Connecting the World with Flags brings a display of flags from every country around the world into the classroom, providing a visual and physical manipulative that students will be able to access when studying different countries. Students will grow up in a global culture and these 4th graders will study that international community by making flags of other nations part of their daily experience in the classroom. Students will share what they learn at a school-wide International Day in May.



9. What are HeLa Cells and Why Should I Care?

Teacher Recipient: Sarah Urban
School: Capital High
Sponsor: St. Peter’s Hospital

Capital High School students will use the *New York Times* bestseller, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* as a framework to learn about cells, cell division, scientific research, and scientific ethics. The class will study the same cell line from Henrietta Lacks (He La cells) that is used in worldwide research laboratories. This project incorporates reading a nonfiction scientific best-selling book that is written, not only to explain science, but also to explore ethical issues often overlooked in high school science courses.



10. Clean Air and Healthy Homes

Teacher Recipient: Logan Mannix
School: Capital High
Sponsor: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana

Using Dylas Air Quality Monitors, Capital High School students will learn about air pollution in their homes and various locations in our community and will work with scientists to design, conduct, and present the results of individual or small group research projects at a symposium at the University of Montana.



11. A Book to Bring a Community Together

Teacher Recipient: Heidi Herbolich
School: Rossiter Elementary
Sponsor: Helena Motors

The “One School, One Book” program creates a shared reading experience throughout an entire school community and highlights the importance of family literacy. With help from HEF, Rossiter will purchase one chapter book for each student. Students, staff, and families will enjoy a month long reading extravaganza with enriching activities to promote the excitement of reading.

To date, HEF has awarded **274** grants, totalling more than **\$542,926** and involving more than **85%** of Helena’s teachers:

- 112** High school grants
- 52** Middle school grants
- 9** PAL grants
- 101** Elementary grants

Great Ideas Grants have enhanced the education and experiences of virtually all of Helena’s 8,000 students over the last 13 years.

Thank you to the HEF Fall 2015 grant sponsors:

- Bill and Helen Ballinger
- Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation
- Dowl
- Helena High School Class ‘62
- Helena Motors
- Tim and Piper Lynch
- St. Peter’s Hospital
- Treacy Foundation
- US Bank
- Van’s Thriftway

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

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.



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Great Ideas Grant sponsor: Mike Frank, President, Blue Cross Blue Shield Of Montana

“A quality education is paramount and is the real difference-maker in our society. Our children are our future. HEF fosters unique opportunities that make learning fun and more engaging. It’s a tremendous recipe for success that brings substantial value to our community.”

Highlights from past grant awards:

- ▶ **See You at the Opera!** 4th through 8th grade students learned about opera by attending Saturday opera broadcasts at the MET and organizing a brunch for community members to promote and celebrate opera.
- ▶ **iCan, iWill Succeed and Explore:** Middle School students improved their technology skills from new iPads, iPad apps, and iBooks
- ▶ **A+ Readers:** Kindergarten students gained an early appreciation for reading and improved their reading skills with additional age- and skill-appropriate books for their classrooms and library.
- ▶ **The Automotive Technology Diagnostic Improvement:** High School students learned how to work on today's highly technical vehicles with updated automobile diagnostic and repair equipment.
- ▶ **Do You Hear What I Hear?** Preschool students (ages 3 to 5 years old) were more accurately screened for hearing with a new, otoacoustic emission screening tool (OAE) designed for early intervention and treatment to prevent delays in learning language, communication and early academic skills due to hearing issues.

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



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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: _____

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