

12

GREAT IDEAS

The Helena Education Foundation
awards **Spring 2016** Great Ideas Grants





1. Apps for Laps!

Teacher Recipient: Angie Dailey
School: Kessler Elementary School
Sponsor: Montana Broom and Brush

Technology is one way teachers can meet students' academic needs in the classroom. *Apps for Laps* will help students achieve their speech goals which directly correlate to the literacy goals within the classroom. Students who have a firm grasp of sound-letter correspondence are better equipped to become successful readers.



2. Bouncing Our Way to Success

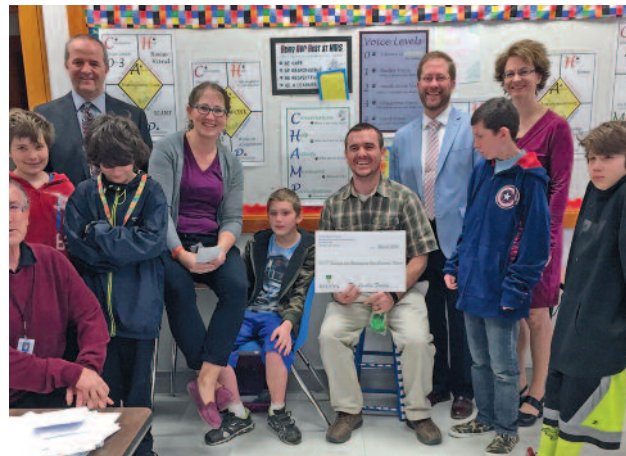
Teacher Recipient: Kristen Lyndes
School: Smith Elementary
Sponsor: Mountain West Bank Endowment

Bouncing Our Way to Success will promote proper body mechanics, good posture, improve seat behavior, increase productivity, increase participation and readiness, and decrease sensory overstimulation.

3. Building and Redesigning Our Students' Future

Teacher Recipient: Jesika Fisher and Jarod Murgel
School: Helena Middle School
Sponsor: The Lovshin Family

With the addition of tools and supplies, our students with social and emotional needs will have further opportunities to develop valuable job and life skills in the midst of fostering relationships and creativity. They will have greater flexibility and opportunity to create and learn in a totally hands-on environment.



4. Carnival of the Puppets

Teacher Recipient: Jennifer Skogley
School: Jim Darcy Elementary School
Sponsor: Sodexo

Lights! Camera! Action! *Carnival of the Puppets* will guide students in the creation and performance of an original puppet show at the annual art show. They will use the puppets to tell an original story about a day at the zoo, accompanied by a suite of classical music.



5. Collaboration Nation

Teacher Recipient: Justine Alberts
Schools: Kessler Elementary School
Sponsor: The Brus Family

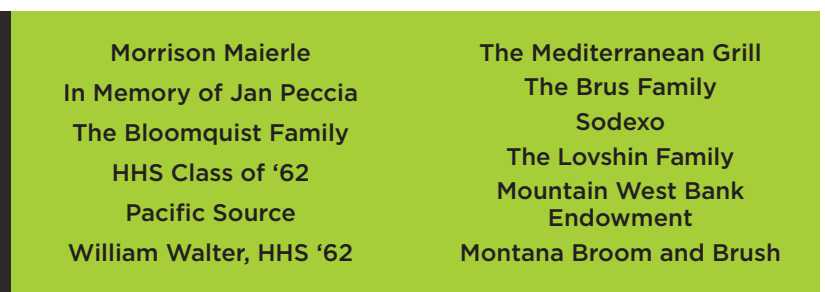
Students involved in *Collaboration Nation* will be introduced to a new world of learning through hands-on technology, collaboration and participation in small groups. Students will be able to build upon knowledge, taught and known, while interacting with their peers to master content standards through play, manipulation, assessments and much more.



6. Creating a Collaborative Community

Teacher Recipient: Jodi Delaney
School: Broadwater School
Sponsor: The Mediterranean Grill

Broadwater School families will create a large-scale outdoor art installation highlighting all the members of our community, both child and adult, who work together to support our school. The project is experiential, creating a sense of belonging and fostering a positive relationship between school and community.



7. Explore It All!

Teacher Recipient: Missy Sampson
School: Helena High School
Sponsor: William Walter, HHS '62

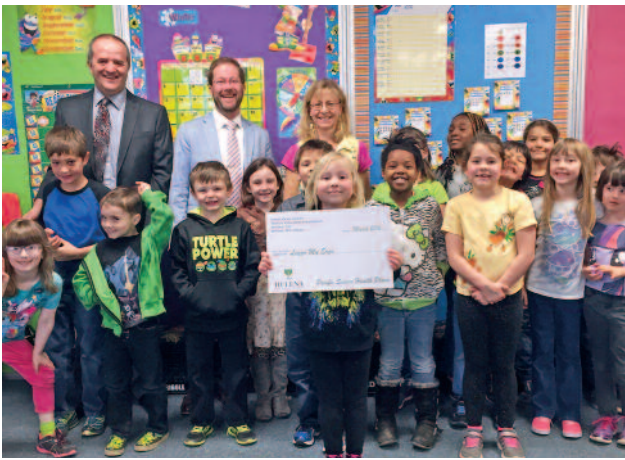
Science Circus has long been a cornerstone of the Helena community. For decades, students of all ages have flocked to the event to not only broaden their education, but also their hopes and dreams. Elementary school children are dazzled and intrigued by scientific demonstrations given by high school students that seem to defy belief, drawing them to the wonderful world of science and medicine. No event matches Science Circus in its reach and impact upon students. This grant will support materials needed for the Circus, keep admission affordable and raise funds for Science Seminar students to visit Yellowstone National Park.



8. Imagineers in Action

Teacher Recipient: Amber Byrd and Pam Murnion
School: Rossiter and Warren Elementary Schools
Sponsor: Morrison Maierle

Imagineers in Action will give elementary students the opportunity to put their natural curiosity to work as they program robots to complete specific tasks. Students will also learn coding skills alongside local professionals from the fields of computer science and engineering.



9. Leggo My Ergo

Teacher Recipient: Mary Emge
School: Bryant Elementary School
Sponsor: Pacific Source

Sitting in traditional classroom chairs for the entire day is uncomfortable and not healthy for the spine. Young bodies need movement, proper spinal alignment, and comfort. The ErgoKids Stool is designed for kids for this purpose, helping students develop strength and flexibility, while enabling them to concentrate more easily.



10. Little Bits of Inventing

Teacher Recipient: Brenna Stefanik
School: Jim Darcy Elementary School
Sponsor: The Bloomquist Family

Little Bits allow students to become inventors by encouraging hands-on learning and collaboration. Performance tasks are mastered through creativity, exploration and experimentation. From creating inchworms that move, to vehicles that roam, and lanterns that light up our space, students will learn and explore while immersed in science and technology.

11. Putting the 'Pro'fessionalism into Projects

Teacher Recipient: Tyler Hollow and Claire Pichette
School: Helena High School
Sponsor: HHS Class of '62

Putting the 'Pro' into Projects will provide a wide array of students access to a professional plotter printer for their final project presentations. This plotter will allow students to design and print real blueprints, professional scientific posters and medical presentations for students in all science, health careers and industrial drafting classes. Giving these students the opportunity to create business-worthy professional visual aids for their presentations will prepare them for futures in many career fields.



12. Turn Around; Learn in Town!

Teacher Recipient: Ashlie Buresh
School: Kessler Elementary School
Sponsor: In Memory of Jan Peccia

This grant will allow students to experience learning through monthly educational field trips primarily in downtown Helena. Students will apply the skills they are working on inside the classroom, outside the classroom and become better acquainted with areas beyond their own neighborhood.



To date, HEF has awarded **286** grants, totalling more than **\$562,926** and involving more than **85%** of Helena's teachers:

115 High school grants
53 Middle school grants

9 PAL grants
109 Elementary grants

Great Ideas Grants have enhanced the education and experiences of virtually all of Helena's 8,000 students over the last 14 years.

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.



Great Ideas Grant sponsor: Jason Mercer, Morrison Maierle, Inc.

“As engineers, surveyors, planners, and scientists, we wouldn’t be the problem solvers we are today without the guidance of great teachers. At Morrison-Maierle, our core purpose is to create solutions that build better communities. Central to these communities are educators and organizations like the Helena Education Foundation that focus on learning and building the leaders of tomorrow. Thank you, HEF, for everything you do for Helena teachers and students.”

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 with 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.
- ▶ **Automotive Technology Diagnostic Improvement:** High school students learned how to work on today’s highly technical vehicles with updated automobile diagnostic and repair equipment.

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

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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.