

13 GREAT IDEAS

The Helena Education
Foundation awards
Fall 2016
Great Ideas Grants





Awezome Ozobots

1. Awezome Ozobots

Teacher: Justine Alberts, Kessler Elementary

Sponsor: Northrop Grumman

Students involved in Awezome Ozobots will be introduced to STEM experiences through the use of technology, collaborative work and robotics. Students will code and program with Ozobots, collaborate with peers to master content standards and work toward being college and career ready.

2. Flexing Mind Muscles

Teacher: Justine Alberts, Kessler Elementary

Sponsor: First Interstate Bank

Students involved in Flexing Mind Muscles will be introduced to a new style of learning by employing a variety of classroom seating options aiding in focus, engagement and physical health. Incorporating flexible seating to the classroom will help students learn to focus in an ever-changing environment and to make choices to meet their academic needs.

3. Library Gallery Installation

Teacher: Debra Dorrance, Capital High School

Sponsor: Ron and Connie Bergum

This project will enhance library space at Capital High School with the installation of a high quality commercial grade versatile picture/project hanging system. This system allows for customized displays of art and various academic projects.

4. Cutting on Track

Teacher: Cindy Galbavy, Helena High School

Sponsor: Reach Higher Montana

This grant will fund a new track torch system for the welding department, giving students the opportunity to practice with updated and relevant technology. The goal of this grant is to work side by side with Helena College to correctly train and prepare students for summer and post-graduation employment and further training in two and four-year programs.

5. Sensing Success

Teacher: Kristen Lyndes, Smith Elementary

Sponsor: Mike Dalton

This grant will provide a unique workspace within the classroom catered to the needs of individual students, allowing them to work on independence, social skills and self-calming techniques and to avoid losing valuable educational time.

6. Adventure to the Wild Heart of America

Teacher: Cassie Koch, Helena Middle School

Sponsor: William Walter

Students will embark on a four day journey where they will experience Yellowstone National Park like true scientists. Under the guidance of park rangers, students will explore off trail, test hot springs samples, investigate animal markings, study geology, ecology and history of Yellowstone.

7. Dig Deeper

Teacher: Kristen Lyndes, Smith Elementary

Sponsor: In Memory of Jan Peccia

This project provides students with a unique opportunity to perform an author study, delving deeply into an author's life and body of work. Individually, in small groups, or as a class, students will: critically evaluate an author's themes, characters and writing style; make connections between the author's life and work; make personal connections among their own experiences and those of the author and his/her characters.

8. Dig In!

Teacher: Erika McMillin, Bryant Elementary

Sponsor: Montana Broom and Brush

Dig In! will increase engagement through project based learning through partnerships with Museum of the Rockies, Exploration Works and other community resources. For these Special Education students, three units of hands on activities and project-based learning focus on archaeology, geology, and astronomy and will support hands-on activities and materials for the classroom and field trips.

9. Creating Connections

Teacher: Julie Mitchell, Helena High School

Sponsor: Bill and Helen Ballinger

Creating Connections fosters an eagerness to learn about other regions and cultures. Students will interview individuals from around the world in person and via Facetime/Skype to explore a wide range of human experiences. Students will also develop their active reading and critical thinking skills by reading memoirs, biographies and novels to illuminate personal struggles on a broader political and social landscape. Funding will support guest speakers, authors and a variety of books for each class.



Flexing Mind Muscles



Library Gallery Installation



Cutting On Track



Sensing Success



Adventure to the Wild Heart of America



Dig Deeper

10. Trekking and Tracking

Teacher: Emily Petersen, Project for Alternative Learning

Sponsor: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana

Trekking and Tracking offers new ways of learning in science and English by snowshoeing in the wild and introduces vocational pathways particular to Montana. Learning is an adventure supported by active curriculum, nature and community involvement. This grant will provide exercise and offer experiences and memories that all 10th -12th graders will carry with them for a lifetime.

11. Reading through Rhythms

Teacher: Susan Sielbach, Jefferson Elementary

Sponsor: Crowley Fleck, PLLP

Reading through Rhythms combines percussion instruments with story-telling and places the learning into the hands of the students. This program blending rich literature and percussion will build communication skills, team effort, listening skills and foster an interest in books by using a creative element to make stories come alive.

12. Biotech Integration Project

Teacher: Christina Sieminski, Capital High School

Sponsor: St. Peter's Hospital

The Biotech Integration Project will allow students to apply science skills learned in the biotechnology and microbiology units in conjunction with the science process skills they have learned throughout high school. The kits purchased through this grant will help students develop a scientific experiment about a biotech question of their choice.

13. Let's Talk!

Teacher: Christine Trefzger, Ray Bjork

Sponsor: Sodexo

This project creates "Communication Classrooms" in which teachers and para-educators work together with the speech-language pathologist to build receptive and expressive communication skills in their students. Funding will support communication devices and high-tech language programs that use visual pictures, transition picture rings and picture exchange systems for students in the special needs pre-school program.



Dig In!



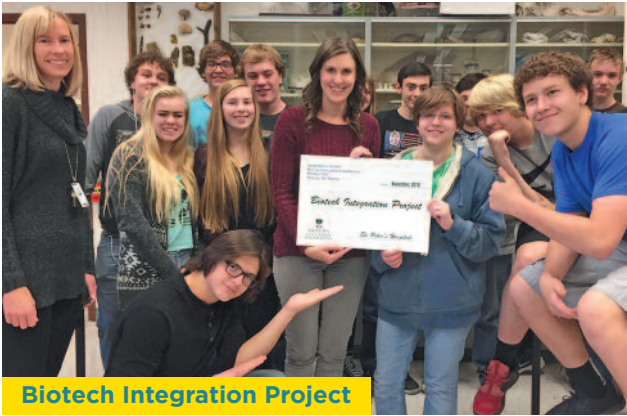
Creating Connections



Trekking and Tracking



Reading Through Rhythms



Biotech Integration Project



Let's Talk!

Thank you to the
HEF Fall 2016 grant sponsors:

- Bill and Helen Ballinger
- Ron and Connie Bergum
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana
- Crowley Fleck, PLLP
- First Interstate Bank
- Mike Dalton
- Montana Broom and Brush
- Northrop Grumman
- In Memory of Jan Peccia
- Reach Higher Montana
- Sodexo
- St. Peter's Hospital
- William Walter

To date,
HEF has awarded
299 grants,
totalling more
than **\$582,766**
and involving
more than **85%**
of Helena's teachers:

- 119** High school grants
- 54** Middle school grants
- 11** PAL grants
- 116** Elementary grants



Great Ideas Grants have enhanced
the education and experiences
of virtually all of Helena's
8,000 students over the
last 15 years.

hefmt.org

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.

Highlights from past grant awards:

- **Putting the ‘Pro’ fessionalism into Projects!** This grant provided high school students access to a professional plotter printer for their final project presentations. This plotter allows 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 and preparing them for futures in many career fields.
- **Creating a Collaborative Community:** Elementary school students and families created a large-scale outdoor art installation highlighting members of the Broadwater 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.
- **Little Bits of Inventing:** Elementary students became inventors with hands-on learning and collaboration in the classroom. From creating inchworms that move, to vehicles that roam and lanterns that light up the sky, students learned and explored while immersed in science and technology.

Great Ideas Grant sponsor

“We are honored and privileged to sponsor the Helena Education Foundation Great Ideas Grants program. These grants enable some of the many innovative and creative ideas of our community’s educators to become a reality. We appreciate the HEF providing businesses an opportunity to help enhance our high quality public schools in Helena.”

—Heidi Goettel and Mike Green, Attorneys, Crowley Fleck PLLP

HEF
for the
Holidays!



Give a gift this holiday season in honor of the teacher who helped shape your life, those who are helping to shape the lives of your children in Helena schools, or anyone you wish to celebrate. You may download a certificate at hefmt.org to present to the recipient.



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

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