

9

GREAT IDEAS

The Helena Education
Foundation awards
Spring 2017
Great Ideas Grants



1. Lights! Camera! Action!

Teacher: Claudia Crase, Kessler Elementary

Sponsor: Valley Bank

Lights! Camera! Action! brings stories to life. Students will write and perform their own scripts under the guidance of local professionals. Add some rhythm and a little music and some simple costumes, and the creativity of kids takes center stage. Videos of student performances will include tips for improving performance and be used as teaching tools in other classrooms. Inspiring students to engage with text is crucial to their success and engagement increases when content is presented through the arts.

2. Plan for the Future

Teacher: Allison Lampman and Trisha Klock, Helena High School

Sponsor: Northwestern Energy

Plan for the Future will provide students with the planning and organizational skills and resources they need to succeed not only in the fast-paced world of high school, but also in their adult lives. With increased academic expectations and digital distractions, many students struggle with planning and organizational skills—skills directly tied to work completion and accountability. The goal is to assist all incoming freshman with organizational resources to help them succeed in high school.

3. Lifelong Literacy

Teacher: Erin Hunt, Helena High School

Sponsor: Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation

Lifelong Literacy will involve learning, implementing and scaffolding specific strategies within the classroom to improve students' science literacy skills. Emphasizing reading strategies and skills, instead of only subject content, will enable students to become critical readers and thinkers long after they leave the classroom.

4. Using 3Ds: Design, Develop and Determination to Create Robots

Teacher: Buffy Smith, Helena High School

Sponsor: Dowl

Using 3-D's: Design, Develop, and Determination to Create Robots combines two curricula: Computer Science and Mechanical Engineering, to design, 3D-print, and program simple robots. This project will challenge students and may encourage some to pursue one of many computer science or engineering careers.

5. Modern Band

Teacher: Zach Harris, Helena and Capital High Schools

Sponsor: McDonalds of Helena MT

Modern Band reaches out to the 90% of students not involved in high school music. With the availability of guitars and keyboards, along with a contemporary approach to music, students with little to no musical experience will have a new creative outlet. This grant purchases keyboards, guitars, an electric guitar and ukuleles to engage students of all musical interests and abilities.

6. Life is Special Off Campus

Teacher: Debra Dorrance, Capital High School

Sponsor: Ron and Mignon Waterman

Life Is Special Off Campus promotes student interaction with the community in recreational, professional and social settings, enhancing student understanding of places outside. The goal is to include, not exclude, and have special education students join, not be separated from others. Students in the Life Skills and Employability Special Education program will enjoy field trips to ExplorationWorks!, Gates of the Mountains, Archie Bray, Grand-street Theatre, Lewis and Clark Library, Montana WILD and more.

7. The Memory Project

Teacher: Kimberly Cook, Capital High School

Sponsor: Jim and Laura Brown

The Memory Project is a nationally recognized program that has helped create more than 80,000 portraits of children around the world who have faced substantial challenges such as neglect, abuse, loss of a parent and extreme poverty. Advanced art students will create portraits of some of these children and send them back to the children as gifts. These portraits will help to show these children that people far away care about them and that they have value in the world.

8. Climbing the Walls

Teacher: Jennifer Loomis, Rossiter Elementary School

Sponsor: PacificSource Health Plans

Climbing the Walls will provide a permanent traverse climbing wall for students in Rossiter Elementary School. Students will build strong core muscles, upper body, hand and finger strength while engaged in decision-making, visualizing, problem solving, goal setting, planning and concentration. Other benefits include increased self-confidence, the satisfaction of personal achievement and fun!

9. Yellowstone Thermophile Communities Project

Teacher: Robyn Duff, Helena High School

Sponsor: William (HHS '62) and Judy Walter

Through the Yellowstone Thermophile Communities Project, photography and art students will collaborate in the exploration of the Yellowstone National Park's hydrothermal microbial life, critique Rosane Volchan O'Connor's installation "Archaea" at the Billings Art Museum. Combining art and scientific inquiry, students will develop a unique piece of art reflecting the microbial communities that survive and even thrive in extreme environments.

Thank you grant sponsors:



Jim and Laura Brown

William and Judy Walter

Ron and Mignon Waterman





Lights! Camera! Action!



Life is Special Off Campus



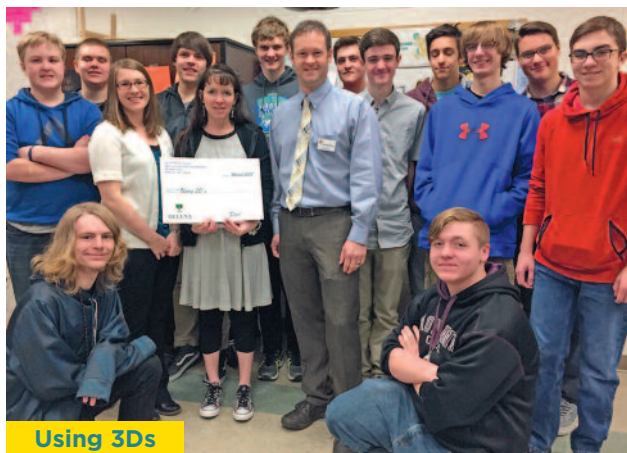
Plan for the Future



The Memory Project



Lifelong Literacy



Using 3Ds



Climbing the Walls



Modern Band



Yellowstone Thermophile Communities

**Thank you to the
HEF Spring 2017 grant sponsors:**

Jim and Laura Brown
William and Judy Walter
Ron and Mignon Waterman
PacificSource Health Plans
Valley Bank
NorthWestern Energy
Dennis & Phyllis
Washington Foundation
Dowl
McDonalds of Helena

**To date, the Helena Education Foundation
has awarded **309** grants, totalling more
than **\$597,240** and involving more than
85% of Helena's teachers:**

128 High school grants
54 Middle school grants
11 PAL grants
118 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.**

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:

- **Cutting on Track:** Replacing HHS's forty-year-old tracer cutter with a new track torch better prepares welding students for their AWS certification. Welding students at Helena High, not only work with older students at Helena College, but share their skills with middle school students as well.
- **Flexing Mind Muscles:** Fourth grade students at Kessler enjoy a variety of classroom seating options aiding in focus, engagement and physical health. Flexible seating includes lap desks, scoop chairs, a white board table and more. Students make choices to best meet their constantly changing study needs.
- **Let's Talk!** Teachers, para-educators and a speech therapist collaborate to use mini iPads to help language-delayed students learn to communicate more effectively in their classrooms. Apps allow students to find a picture representing something they want to convey and the device provides both the written word and a voice output to give the student the gift of language.

Great Ideas Grant sponsor

"Our community is blessed to have dedicated teachers who are always looking for ways to help students gain new experiences. We are pleased to provide seed money to allow their ideas to come to fruition."

—Mignon and Ron Waterman

Mignon Waterman spent decades serving public education in Helena and Montana, in addition to her many other endeavors. Her contributions were significant and the effect of her work will continue to make a difference for decades to come.



HELENA

EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Pay it forward!

The Helena High School class of 1962 contributed \$5,000 for 5 years to fund innovative Great Ideas Grants.

Their motivation: to give back to current and future students by providing enriched learning opportunities. Consider reaching out to your classmates to sponsor a Great Ideas Grant. Your gift will enhance the education of your younger peers in Helena schools. HEF can manage your multi-year and/or monthly or quarterly gift.

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: monthly quarterly

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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Helena, MT 59624

Questions?
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hef@mt.net



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? _____

Gift in honor of? _____

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.