

13 GREAT IDEAS

The Helena Education
Foundation awards
Fall 2017
Great Ideas Grants



1. You Really Can Do That in a High School Classroom? From CRISPR to Algal Beads

Teacher: Sarah Urban, Capital High School

Students will edit bacterial DNA using CRISPR, analyze their mitochondrial DNA using PCR and electrophoresis, model the impacts of nicotine and cocaine on neurotransmission, search for antibiotic substances in their environment and investigate photosynthesis and respiration using algal beads. We really can do this in the high school biology classroom!

Students Served: 125 students; 10th–12th graders annually
Sponsor: Northrop Grumman

2. ART SMART!

Teacher: Emily Hankins, Kessler Elementary

ART SMART resource kits are a collection of materials to help early elementary teachers teach meaningful fine art lessons in the classroom. ART SMART resource kits will be available for check out to all teachers in the district. Each kit provides books, toys, templates and art project ideas to make teaching dynamic art lessons a snap.

Students Served: 1,000 students; K-2nd graders in all 11 elementary schools
Sponsor: Michael and Ginger Agee

3. Living Among the Masters

Teacher: Jodi Delaney, Broadwater Elementary School

Our school’s hallways will be transformed into a beautifully curated art museum through the addition of framed prints of artistic merit and renown. Each print already has information provided on its back that describes the artist, the artwork, important ideas and events of the time-period, and related art skills/concepts. That information will be used as the basis for developing an interactive curriculum for all teachers to use. Students will explore the art pieces in their classrooms using high-resolution scanned images with coordinating activities, building a personal connection to the artworks over many years.

Students Served: 248 students; K-5th graders annually
Sponsor: Tim Speyer

4. Historical Beautification

Award: Nick Radley, Principal, Four Georgians Elementary

Art and Montana history come alive on the walls of the school in the form of murals. Fourth grade students will be working with local artists and historians to design and paint murals specific to the history of our city and of Four Georgians School. The project is designed to create a sense of ownership and belonging while building relationships between school and community.

Students Served: 408 students; 4th graders will execute, but project will serve all students in the school annually
Sponsor: Sandy Wikle, Rock Hand Hardware

5. Town Troubadour: Singing and Strumming Helena History

Teacher: Sarah Dramstad, Rossiter Elementary

This grant will purchase ukuleles for use by current and future 3rd graders who will read about Helena history, sing about it in music class, and write their own song verses about

Thank you to the HEF Fall 2017 grant sponsors:

Michael and Ginger Agee

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Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation

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In Memory of Jan Peccia

Sandy Wikle, Rock Hand Hardware

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Tim Speyer

it as part of an interdisciplinary music program highlighting the 3rd grade curriculum area of local history. The addition of ukuleles to this project will increase student ownership of the songwriting and performing process while simultaneously supporting goals of music literacy.

Students Served: 80 students; 3rd graders annually
Sponsor: Bill and Helen Ballinger

6. Climbing for Fitness

Teacher: Jennifer Loomis, Rossiter Elementary

Through physical activity, we will engage and enhance students’ ability to work through problems and climb to greater heights. This grant will provide the funds to add the tools Everlast Full Start System and Starfit System to our existing traverse climbing wall to expand the impact of physical education for Jim Darcy students today and in the future.

Students Served: 475 students; K-5th graders annually
Sponsor: John and Jennifer Bloomquist

7. Kindergarten Collaboration...Let’s Do This!

Teacher: Mary Pat Penley, Bryant Elementary

Kindergarten Collaboration...Let’s Do This! is a plan to find fresh, innovative solutions for our youngest learners who start school with severe learning challenges, mental health needs and/or behavioral concerns. Special education teachers, occupational therapists and speech therapists will work with kindergarten teachers to provide and utilize weighted lap belts, boundary seats, Cozy Canoes, modified scissors, Zoophonics, and more to allow children with special needs to self-regulate and learn in a regular classroom. This project integrates services and provides behavioral supports to special needs students.

Students Served: 48 kindergarteners annually
Sponsor: Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation

8. S.W.A.G. Swimmers with a Goal

Teacher: Debra Dorrance, Capital High School

Teachers and paraprofessionals involved with the Life Skills and Special Education students will work with the Helena YMCA to provide a once a month swim practice for students this year. The social, physical, and recreational experience will serve to introduce students with special abilities and needs to an enriching lifelong activity available in most communities.

Students Served: 30 students; 9th-12th graders
Sponsor: Keith and Susan Foster

9. Reading Our Way to Writing Success

Teacher: Lynn Trenary, Warren Elementary

Reading Our Way to Writing Success will put in teachers’ hands the materials that they need to inspire their students to become successful writers. Multiple copies of the titles recommended by Yolanda Westerberg during district-wide literacy training will be available for teachers at each grade level so they will be able to launch Writers’ Workshops in their classrooms.

Students Served: 315 students; K-5th graders annually
Sponsor: In Memory of Jan Peccia

10.Showin’ Respect & Livin’ the Code

Teacher: Terri Norman, Capital High School

Showin’ Respect and Livin’ the Code will promote student involvement, respect for oneself and others, and the idea that we are “more alike than different” by increasing awareness of school activities through “stall news”—creating inspirational messages on restroom walls, and “modeling” respect. This project is designed to help students strengthen their self-esteem and confidence and implements Montana Behavior Initiative goals for preventing bullying and suicide among youth.

Students Served: 1350 students; 9th-12th graders
Sponsor: Sarah Scott

11. Creative Work Spaces

Teacher: Mary Smaka, Broadwater Elementary

Teachers adopting Creative Work Spaces will integrate curriculum that teaches spatial awareness and mindfulness with student choice in flexible seating. This will promote effective and innovative teaching in both full class and small group settings and will improve student performance by providing research-based choices for comfortable seating options.

Students Served: 40 students; 1st-3rd graders annually
Sponsor: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana

12.Board Games for Brain Building

Teacher: Brenna Stefanik, Jim Darcy Elementary

In a world where face-to-face interaction is being replaced by a reliance on technology, it is important for students to learn not only curriculum, but how to get along, and how to think critically. Carefully selected board games will give students opportunities to practice critical academic skills while collaborating with classmates and having fun.

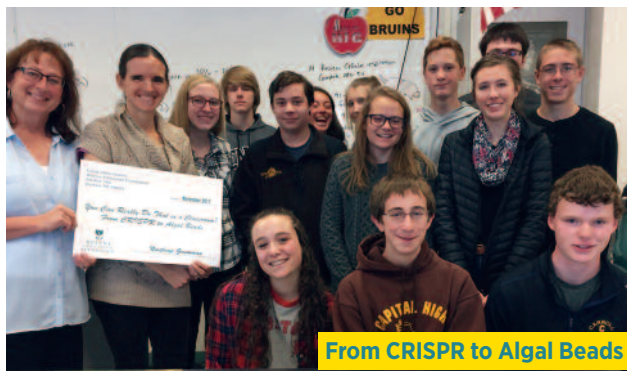
Students Served: 75 students; 3rd graders annually
Sponsor: Ed and Mary Barrett

13.Twisting and Turning Means More Learning

Teacher: Kayla Ryan, Bryant Elementary School

Through flexible seating designed to serve various learning styles, students will be encouraged to harness energy and movement in positive ways. With wobble stools, stationary bike desks, rolling ball chairs, and both lap and standing desks, students will practice making choices in their learning environment that foster collaboration, creativity, and problem solving.

Students Served: 35 students; 4th graders annually
Sponsor: Sodexo



From CRISPR to Algal Beads



Climbing for Fitness



Showin' Respect & Livin' the Code



ART SMART!



Kindergarten Collaboration



Creative Work Spaces



Living Among the Masters



Historical Beautification



Town Troubador



S.W.A.G.



Board Games for Brain Building



Reading Our Way to Writing Success



Twisting and Turning Means More Learning

To date, the Helena Education Foundation has awarded **322** grants, totalling more than **\$613,801** and involving more than **85%** of Helena's teachers!

131 High school grants
54 Middle school grants
11 PAL grants
128 Elementary grants

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.

Great Ideas Grant sponsor

"Sodexo is honored to support the Helena Education Foundation in their mission to enrich and advance the education opportunities for all Helena students for over ten years. We are afforded the privilege of sponsoring a Great Idea Grant annually. This grant provides opportunity and resources for educators to improve the quality of life for their students through added creative elements within their classroom. Sodexo is grateful to HEF for their dedication, strong leadership and personal commitment to the community of Helena." —**Wendy Surak and Robert Worthy, Sodexo**



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