

10 GREAT IDEAS

The Helena Education
Foundation awards
Spring 2018
Great Ideas Grants



Great schools are everyone's business

1. Mustangs’ Community Garden

Teacher: Tia Wilkins and Andy Sund, Jefferson School

The *Mustangs’ Community Garden* will serve as alternative learning space accessible to all students, staff and families. The garden will enhance learning through hands-on activities, linking learning in the classroom to the outside environment.

Sponsor: NorthWestern Energy

2. Stop That Summer Brain Drain

Teacher: Mary Pat Penley, Bryant School

Some families can’t afford summer. This grant allows children and families access to materials that will provide meaningful opportunities to minimize the summer slide. This grant will purchase hands-on developmentally appropriate items, such as books, magnetic letters, letter bean bags, family-friendly games and Zoophonics materials to create home/school connection backpacks that can be checked out from week to week during the summer. The project also includes a family engagement evening at the school during which students, parents and teachers will work together playing educational games, reading books, using educational software and participating in language-building playtime.

Sponsor: Allegiance Benefit Plan Management

3. Podcast of our Lives

Teacher: Jeri Rittel, Project for Alternative Learning

Podcast of our Lives is a 3-week collaborative class with at-risk teenagers and podcast journalist, Clay Scott. Students will work in small teams to create oral histories and learn to interview, edit and podcast their stories.

Sponsor: Cordillera Communications

4. Do You Want Pi with That?

Teacher: Pat Murphy, Capital High School

Do You Want PI with That? combines the engineering and maker skills of the robotics class with the programming prowess of computer science classes. The goal is to engage students with physical computing, which entails building autonomous robots equipped with a LIDAR (LIght Detection and Ranging) that students will design, build and program. The Raspberry PI 3 single board computer and the Arduino Uno microcontroller will be the platform for development of these robotic vehicles.

Sponsor: Verizon

Learn more about the
Helena Education Foundation:
hefmt.org

5. EEK! Electrical Engineering for Kids

Teacher: Jake Warner, Capital High School

The *EEK! Electrical Engineering for Kids* project gives students a hands-on, project based experience to learn about electricity and electrical engineering. Instead of reading out of a book, students will create working models with electrical components, design circuits with Circuit Scribe Pens, and learn to solder real circuit boards. This project lays the foundation for an engineering program at CHS and involves the collaboration of math, science and CTE department teachers.

Sponsor: Verizon

6. The Destination and the Journey:
A Literary Pilgrimage

Teacher: Becca Leaphart and James Irby, Capital High School

The journey to the Montana Book Festival will expose students of literature and creative writing to a thriving literary community. Attending panels, readings, workshops, presentations and more, students will engage with professional writers and readers in a dynamic conversation about language, stories, expression and a shared love of books.

Sponsor: ReachHigher Montana

7. Artful Design to Empower the Mind

Teacher: Kylie Pancich and Jake West, C.R. Anderson Middle School

The *Artful Design to Empower the Mind* project will research and implement the most effective and functional types of seating for students of all abilities and needs. Allowing movement, fidgeting and stimulating the body will help to focus and empower students to be successful and engaged learners. This grant introduces alternative seating for the first time to Helena middle school students and will purchase adjustable height activity tables, buoy chairs, Hokki stools and more.

Sponsor: First Interstate Bank

Thank you to the HEF Spring 2018
grant sponsors:

NorthWestern Energy
Allegiance Benefit Plan Management
Chris and Helen Christensen
Cordillera Communications
First Interstate Bank
Rick and Jane Hays
Montana Broom and Brush
ReachHigher Montana
Duane and Sue Wright
Verizon

8. Visiting Virginia City

Teacher: Justine Alberts, Kessler School

Visiting Virginia City is a project that will focus on Montana’s history in a historic site, bringing to life some of the stories about early pioneers and the wild west. Students will visit historic Virginia and Nevada City. Stepping into the past will help bring awareness to how much times have changed and allow students a chance to better understand the daily lives of our predecessors. Students will pan for gold, visit the historic shops, homes and street museums, ride the tour train and listen to stories about vigilantes and troublesome bandits.

Sponsor: Rick and Jane Hays

9. Better Books = Successful Readers

Teacher: Jane Shawn, Four Georgians School

Better Books = Successful Readers will provide leveled reading books for all kindergarten and first grade learners. Below grade level readers will have interesting books that use repetitive sight words and phonics skills. Above grade level learners will be reading paired fiction/nonfiction book sets to increase comprehension.

Sponsor: Chris and Helen Christensen

10. All About Those Bass Bars

Teacher: Jennifer Skogley, Broadwater School

The purpose of this project is to help 5th grade students gain a deeper understanding of the foundations of jazz music by putting bass bars in their hands. They will use the new instruments to play a 12-bar blues progression (the underlying harmonic foundation of most jazz tunes), and then they will use that knowledge to create their own 12-bar blues to accompany a creative movement component.

Sponsor: Duane and Sue Wright

11. Let’s Boogie our Way through Class!

Teacher: Erin Finstad, Bryant School

Let’s Boogie our Way through Class! will provide an innovative replacement for student white boards, which are essential for classroom practice. These Boogie Boards will be available for all third-grade students. Boogie Boards will allow students to demonstrate their understanding of various concepts in a fresh, new way.

Sponsor: Montana Broom and Brush



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



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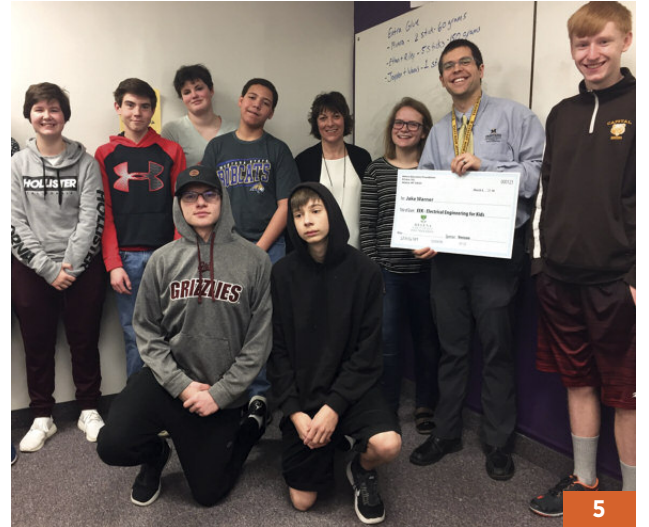
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To date, the Helena Education Foundation has awarded **333** grants, totalling more than **\$638,971** and involving more than **85%** of Helena's teachers!

134 High school grants
55 Middle school grants
12 PAL grants
134 Elementary grants



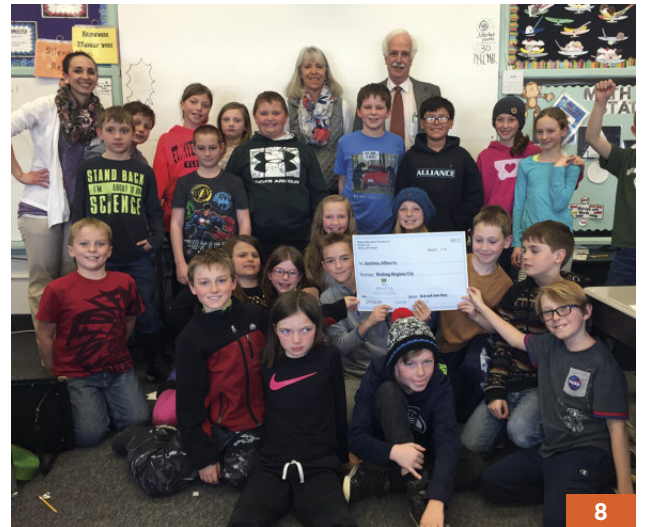
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What is the Great Ideas Grant Program?

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.

When schools succeed, communities succeed. When Helenans invest in our schools:

- ▶ Ground was broken for three new elementary schools on March 21, 2018
- ▶ Safety and security upgrades are being implemented at all elementary, middle and high schools.
- ▶ Web cams will be installed at all construction sites so the public can watch the construction progress on the new schools
- ▶ A construction pathway has been developed with construction teams enabling CHS and HHS students to work as interns on the school construction sites



Research shows that education, including the quality, size and shape of school facilities:

- ▶ enhances productivity
- ▶ influences residential property values
- ▶ helps communities become more economically competitive
- ▶ improves safety and enhances the quality of life where we work, live, play and raise our families.

NorthWestern
Energy

Great Ideas Grant sponsor

"Many of the efforts of the Helena Education Foundation happen behind the scenes, but the benefits of their work impact the future of our communities by enhancing the lives of students in our schools today. NorthWestern Energy is proud to support such a quality organization."

—Howard Skjervem, NorthWestern Energy



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

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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I am a graduate/former student of the Helena Public Schools:

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