



7 GREAT IDEAS

The Helena Education Foundation
awards **Fall 2018** Great Ideas Grants



Great schools are everyone's business

tt1. Learning—Living—Unified

Teacher: Michael Burk,
Capital High School

Unified PE will engage peers with and without disabilities in physical activity/sport, fostering important social inclusion relationships and providing the basis for a commitment to life-long health. Students of varying abilities, levels and backgrounds will come together on equal terms through ongoing fitness, leadership, wellness and sport activities. Unified PE provides physical education opportunities for students with special needs, with a focus on recreational activities students might enjoy after graduating from high school.

Sponsor: Blue Cross Blue Shield
of Montana

2. Let’s Pause for a Moment
of Science

Teacher: Kayla Ryan,
Bryant Elementary School

“Let’s pause for a moment of science!” Students will choose a hands-on STEM kit each day to help develop their critical thinking skills. From building with Legos to learning coding, these versatile kits will allow any student to work independently or collaboratively to solve various problems.

Sponsor: Northrop Grumman

3. Booking for Our Future

Teacher: Holly McGraw,
Kessler Elementary School

This grant will foster a love of reading by giving first grade and kindergarten students high quality reading choices. Eighty students this year, as well as future students, will use these books to support and enhance their reading skills. Eventually, every student at Kessler school will benefit from these high interest, levelled readers.

Sponsor: In Memory of Jan Peccia

Learn more about the
Helena Education Foundation:
hefmt.org

4. By Cheyenne Campfires—
Indian Education For All

Teacher: Abby Nyhof, Central/Linc

With the help of new instruments and books, *By Cheyenne Campfires: Music and Indian Education for All* will encourage students to explore musical concepts and techniques while studying culturally authentic stories (both historic and modern) from Montana’s Native American tribes.

Sponsor: Dennis & Phyllis Washington
Foundation

5. Challenge of Conservation

Teacher: Missy Sampson,
Helena High School

Challenge of Conservation will prepare students to compete in a world with a set of new and troubling circumstances; population increase, climate change, resource allocation, human interface with ecosystems—all while trying to carve out their own niche in this equation we call life. Students need to get outside and experience conservation first hand and be empowered to be a part of the solutions. These students will participate in a trip to the Blackfoot Challenge as part of Science Seminar.

Sponsor: ReachHigher Montana

6. Budding Birders

Teacher: Jane Shawn,
Four Georgians Elementary

Budding Birders will provide young students the opportunity to participate in citizen science. Using binoculars especially designed for kids, students will observe and identify birds in a natural habitat and report their findings to Cornell Lab Project *FeederWatch*. Students will also photograph birds and work with a local artist to paint birds on actual canvas—this transforms a STEM project into a STEAM project!

Sponsor: Tim Speyer

7. Coding Without Tears

Teacher: Marla Unruh,
Broadwater Elementary

Lower elementary and library teachers will use the toy robot *Cubetto* to teach computational thinking with positive impact on learning across content areas. *Cubetto* is a manipulative that requires no computer application or connection and introduces kindergarteners, 1st and 2nd graders to the algorithms that make coding work.

Sponsor: William and Helen Ballinger

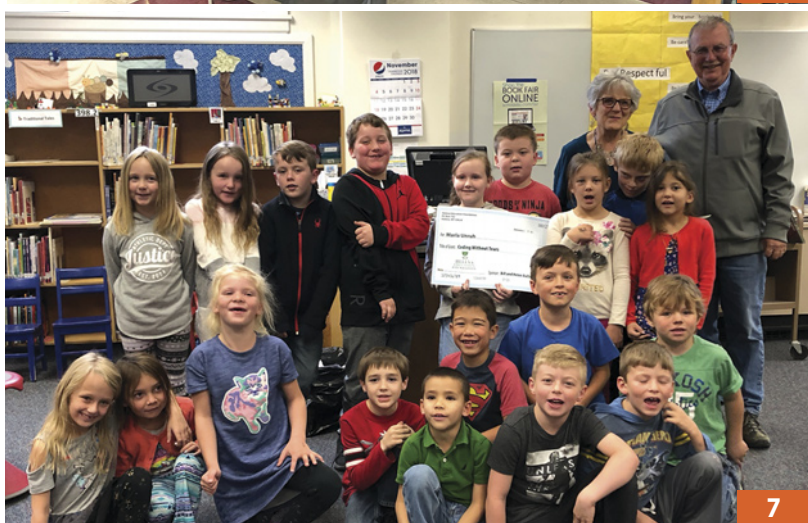
By the numbers:

To date, the Helena Education
Foundation has awarded
340 grants, totalling more
than **\$659,035** and
involving more than
85% of Helena’s teachers!

136 High school grants
55 Middle school grants
12 PAL grants
139 Elementary grants

Thank you to the HEF
Fall 2018 grant sponsors:

Blue Cross Blue Shield
of Montana
Northrop Grumman
In Memory of Jan Peccia
Dennis & Phyllis
Washington Foundation
Tim Speyer
ReachHigher Montana
William and Helen Ballinger



Great schools
are everyone's business



The
Helena Education Foundation
Great Ideas Grants program
has enhanced the education
and experiences of
virtually all of Helena's
8,000 students.

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:

- **Twisting and Turning Means More Learning:** Through flexible seating designed to serve various learning styles, students are encouraged to harness energy and movement in a positive way. With wobble stools, stationary bike desks, rolling ball chairs, and both lap and standing desks, students practice making choices in their learning environment that foster collaboration, creativity and problem solving.
- **You Really Can Do That in a High School Classroom? From CRISPR to Algal Beads:** Students 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. They really can do this in the high school biology classroom!

Great Ideas Grant sponsor

We are pleased to be able to support the Helena Education Foundation Great Ideas Program for the past three years. We love being able to see the teachers' ideas translate into classroom projects that excite and engage students! This program directly ties to our education strategy.

NORTHROP GRUMMAN

—Denise Patterson, Department Manager, Northrop Grumman Health Solutions.

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



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