



# **GREAT IDEAS**

The Helena Education Foundation  
awards **Spring 2019**  
Great Ideas Grants



**Great schools** are everyone's business

1. **R.A.I.N.S.(Relating Academics in Nature and Society)**

**Teacher:** Sarah Urban,  
Capital High School

From stream restoration to tesla coils to insulin to genetics, students involved with R.A.I.N.S. will read popular scientific books in AP level science classes, complete hands-on activities and participate in fieldtrips designed to reinforce concepts in the books. Students will connect what they have learned in the classroom to real-world science while preparing to be college ready. This grant will fund the purchase of books, insulin mRNA to protein kits, rubber boots, and more.

**Sponsor:** Shodair Children’s Hospital

2. **Wearable Wellness Wins!**

**Teacher:** Rene Cloninger,  
Helena High School

Wearable technology will provide an individualized approach to health and wellness that extends beyond gym time and motivates and challenges students to engage in an active, healthy lifestyle. Wearable activity trackers (Fitbits) will allow students to set fitness goals, measure their physical activity and monitor their health and wellness 24/7. Through self-monitoring and immediate, direct feedback, this project will help students increase their physical activity and develop lifelong fitness habits.

**Sponsor:** Allegiance Benefit Plan Management Systems

3. **Indian Education through Food and Art**

**Teacher:** Sarah Dramstad,  
Rossiter Elementary School

*Indian Education through Food and Art* brings music, physical education and library skills teachers together with Mariah Gladstone, a Cherokee and Blackfeet educator, to bring a collaborative and interdisciplinary approach to Indian Education for All. Students will learn about food sources and food sovereignty, native culture through music and games and

# BY THE NUMBERS:

To date, the Helena Education Foundation has awarded **346** grants, totalling more than **\$678,584** and involving more than **85%** of Helena’s teachers!

**139** High school grants

**57** Middle school grants

**12** PAL grants

**140** Elementary grants

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

create a topical art project with educators from the Holter Museum of Art.

**Sponsor:** Sodexo

4. **Our Creators are FABLABulous**

**Teacher:** Susan Selvig,  
Capital High School

The CHS FABLAB will provide students with hands-on experience using technology in real-world applications. Using a variety of tools, students gain STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) skills and knowledge that help make them college and career ready. With this grant, iPads, coding and video editing apps will spur student inquiry, exploration, collaboration and problem-solving opportunities.

**Sponsor:** Crowley Fleck PLLP

5. **SmartMusic for Smarter Practice**

**Teacher:** Kevin Cleary,  
C.R. Anderson Middle School

When middle school students first learn to sing or play an instrument, practice feels novel and exciting. After the novelty wears

off, however, practice becomes a chore that is difficult for many students to maintain. SmartMusic software will make practice as exciting and dynamic as performing in the music classroom by providing students with interactive feedback and allowing music teachers to individualize lessons to students’ skill levels.

**Sponsor:** The Family of Helen Christensen

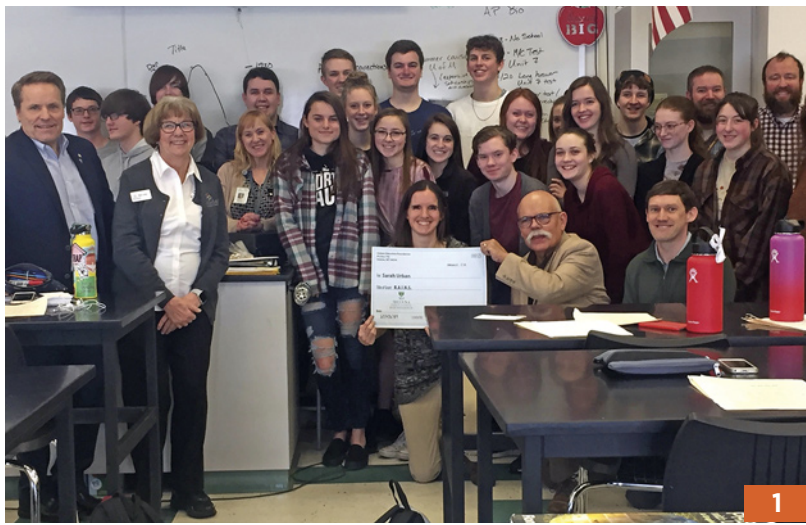
6. **8th Graders in Motion**

**Teacher:** Shannon Thomas,  
C.R. Anderson Middle School

This project brings 21st century technology to 8th grade students who will develop both a conceptual and mathematical understanding of the physics of moving objects. Using motion detectors, photogate timers and related materials, students will be able to graph the motion of objects (and themselves) with precision. Vernier probes purchased through this grant will connect to laptops allowing students to graph movement in real time, using miniature vehicles that students can manipulate for different kinds of experiments with mass and velocity.

**Sponsor:** Morrison-Maierle





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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.

Thank you to the HEF  
Spring 2019 grant sponsors:  
Shodair Children's Hospital  
Allegiance Benefit Plan Management  
Sodexo  
Crowley Fleck, PLLP  
The Family of Helen Christensen  
Morrison-Maierle



## Great Ideas Grant sponsor

“Shodair Children’s Hospital recognizes the great work of teachers in our community and throughout the state of Montana, who give of themselves to improve educational

opportunities for all students. We support the work of teachers through initiatives and resources that lift the profession and help educators and students succeed.”

—Craig Aasved,  
Chief Executive Officer, Shodair Children’s Hospital



## Highlights from past grant awards:

- ▶ **Budding Birders:** *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.
- ▶ **Coding Without Tears:** 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 kindergarten-2nd graders to the algorithms that make coding work.



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

## Great schools make desirable communities

*“I am humbled by this flattering recognition and it is so comforting to know the weight of such a superb community is supporting education here in Helena.”*

—Sam Leonard,  
2018 Let’s Talk About Great Teacher awardee



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