

The Helena Education Foundation awards
Spring 2020 Great Ideas Grants



GREAT IDEAS



Great schools *are everyone's business*

1. Mirrors, Windows, and Sliding Glass Doors

Teacher: Kristin Bishop, Helena Middle School

Mirrors, Windows, and Sliding Glass Doors will give 6th graders the opportunity to gain insight into the lives and experiences of others and/or see themselves reflected in a diverse collection of literature to be used in grade-wide, small group book clubs.

Sponsor: Mike and Pat Cotter

2. CNC Hypertherm Powermax 85

Teacher: Cindy Galbavy, Helena High School

There is a huge shortage of welders in the nation. If our students are trained correctly with a new cutting system leaving high school, they will have more options for future employment—ranging from immediate employment in a local shop, to enrolling in a two-year college or attending a four-year college for an engineering degree.

Sponsor: Dowling Studio Architects

3. Redefining the Classroom

Teacher: Kaci Hauptman, Bryant Elementary School

Redefining the Classroom will provide iPads for student problem solving and collaboration. Second grade students will be able to share a project with a reflection on progress toward a learning goal; and peers will be able to leave valuable feedback and encouragement. This opportunity for ownership in students' education and pride in the learning process.

Sponsor: Sodexo

4. Reading into the Future

Teacher: Madisen Hamper, Four Georgians Elementary School

Reading into the Future will provide the first grade teachers at our school with supplemental reading materials that will enrich the learning of all students. The high interests books will be used in a small groups to promote reading and promote academic growth for years to come.

Sponsor: Keith and Susan Foster

5. Take and Make Bins

Teacher: Chelsey Davis, Four Georgians Elementary School

Take and Make Bins allow fourth grade teachers to participate in meaningful STEAM (Science, Technology Engineering, Art and Mathematics) projects inspired by great literature. Each bin includes a book with a STEAM lesson built around the subject and challenges and materials to complete a maker space project.

Sponsor: Morrison-Maierle

6. Great Ideas Are Meant to Be Shared

Teacher: Jake Warner, Capital High School

This grant will increase teacher collaboration while helping teachers to film and share their best strategies, record lessons for students who are absent or work towards National Board Certification or higher degrees. *The Swivl* is a robotic base mounted to an iPad for video recording. The device automatically follows the teacher and includes a remote microphone that captures both the teacher's voice and student discourse. Helena teachers are doing amazing things and *Great Ideas Are Meant to Be Shared!*

Sponsor: The Christensen Family

7. Teaching Tools of the Trade for Future Tradespeople

Teacher: Tom Kain, Capital High School

Industrial Technology students will be introduced to construction tools used in the building trades. The building trades need a skilled work force to construct buildings in a growing world. Through this grant students will be taught how to safely and effectively use power and pneumatic tools commonly used on a job site.

Sponsor: Dick Anderson Construction

8. Glacier College

Teacher: Julie Mitchell, Helena High School

Glacier College is centered around one of America's most iconic natural spaces—Glacier National Park. Throughout the year, the Park will be a textbook, with every quarter featuring a two-day immersive experience in Glacier to live the coursework firsthand. Students will map the wilderness and understand how nature affects the way we think and feel—experience the Park's history, connect with its Native heritage, and see its preservation at work.

Sponsor: William and Judy Walter

9. Life Lab

Teacher: Heidi Hoffman, Jim Darcy Elementary

The *Life Lab* is an indoor tower garden honoring the memory of Shelley Sharp, who taught at Jim Darcy Elementary for more than 20 years. This modern garden system allows an entire school community to be involved in "growing minds" with real life teaching tools. The *Life Lab* provides engaging opportunities in many subject areas while promoting self-esteem, responsibility, and healthy habits.

Sponsor: Shodair Children's Hospital



BY THE NUMBERS:

To date, the Helena Education Foundation has awarded **367** grants, totalling more than **\$719,927!**

148 High school grants

59 Middle school grants

13 PAL grants

149 Elementary grants

The Helena Education Foundation **Great Ideas Grants** program enhances 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.

Thank you to the HEF Spring 2020 grant sponsors:

The Christensen Family
Mike and Pat Cotter
Dick Anderson Construction
Dowling Studio Architects
Keith and Susan Foster

Morrison-Maierle
Shodair Children's Hospital
Sodexo
William and Judy Walter
Thank you!



Great Ideas Grant sponsors

“The Great Ideas Grant program has provided me with the opportunity to express how important a role the National Parks and Helena High School have played in my career and success. Growing up in Helena, I’ve had a life-time love affair with the National Parks. The grant program enables me to help students appreciate the value of the out of doors and the connection to the natural world. My experiences have provided me with a firm foundation as I have faced challenges in my life and professional career.”

—William Walter, Helena High School Class of 1962

“Dick Anderson Construction was so excited and honored to be a part of a *Great Ideas Grants*. DAC is proud to give back to a community that means so much to us. Our children are the future of our community and we are grateful to the Helena Education Foundation for providing great leadership to apply our support where it is needed. It means a lot to DAC that the grant we supported not only has educational values, but that it has real world applications for the students to use in years to come. Thank you for this opportunity!”

—Bob Heberly, Corporate Vice President, Dick Anderson Construction, Capital High School Class of 1995



DICK ANDERSON
CONSTRUCTION

Highlights from past grant awards:

- ▶ **Fact Fluent and Fearless:** Students ditch traditional timings and flash cards and use 21st century methods such as Reflex Math and other games to master multiplication and division facts.
- ▶ **Let's Get Vocational:** *Let's Get Vocational* allows students who receive special education services to build upon the traditional classroom-based vocational education and actually put their skills to use in a student run, multi-academic job skills venture where they gain numerous and invaluable vocational skills to last throughout high school and beyond!



Would you or your business like to 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

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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.