

The Helena Education Foundation awards  
**Fall 2020** Great Ideas Grants

**GREAT IDEAS!**

The Helena Education Foundation awards  
**Fall 2020** Great Ideas Grants

**GREAT IDEAS!**



**Great schools**  
*are everyone's business*

1. Stand2Learn

Teacher: Jake West, CR Anderson Middle School

With the new learning environment during the COVID-19 pandemic, students are sitting for seven-plus hours a day, which is becoming the norm for students across the nation. I want to change this “norm” by allowing students (who so choose) to use a stand-up desk to shift their bodies and change positions when they need to stay focused. Children will have a choice in their learning environment to change how they work and improve their physical and mental health throughout the day.

Sponsor: PacificSource Health Plans

2. Dedicated to Distance Learning

Teacher: Brenna Stefanik, Jim Darcy Elementary School

Learning from home is hard. I have 20 students who will likely be distance learning the entire school year and I want to give them some tools and organizational materials to make their learning feel a little more like school. Each student will receive a bin to keep all of their materials in, as well as a whiteboard and marker for online lesson activities. Students will also receive a deck of cards and die to practice math facts and expand critical thinking skills.

Sponsor: Capital Sports

3. Fall Into Learning With a Boom

Teacher: Ricki Thompson, Rossiter Elementary School

Integrating technology into teaching and student learning has become a must this year. With this grant, we will purchase Boom Cards. Boom Cards is an app that provides immediate feedback to the teacher who can then tailor lessons for each student. Boom Cards make practicing a task interactive and game-like for students. These Boom Cards are a staple to our online/hybrid teaching and with students each having access to an iPad this year, it is easier to inspire them with technology.

Sponsor: Tempest Technologies

4. Take and Make Bins

Teacher: Amy Friez, Helena Middle School

This year students are unable to utilize our community Makerspace to create, innovate and build. With this grant, we will purchase 20 different “Take and Make Boxes” that can be checked out of the library by students for one to two weeks. Each box will contain a unique set of tools for a unique project, such as a coding challenge, knitting project and other art, science and engineering projects. When returned, all materials will be cleaned, quarantined and replenished before the next use.

Sponsor: Bill and Becky Eiker

5. Better Teaching With a Better Alphabet

Teacher: Anna Alger, Rossiter Elementary School

The Kindergarten Team at Rossiter will purchase the Better Alphabet Secret Stories program. Secret Stories® is a brain-based approach to traditional phonics instruction that accelerates learner access to the reading and writing code. Through logical explanations for letter sound behavior in the form of “secret stories,” students learn the reasons WHY letters make all of the crazy sounds that they do when they get together to form words. The “Secrets” work seamlessly with any reading series or phonics program, fitting snugly between the teaching of reading and writing.

Sponsor: Ed Clinch, Financial Advisor–Edward Jones

6. I Saw the Sign! Marketing and Promotion in the Library

Teacher: Hope Morrison, Hawthorne Elementary School

Information is only as useful as it is accessible. This grant will fund the purchase of products and materials to improve the organization of and accessibility to the Hawthorne Library: easels for book displays, plastic frames for promotional and information signs, wooden racks for high circulating book sets and shelf labels to identify book locations. The purpose of this project is to encourage students to continue to visit the library and make materials easier for them to find.

Sponsor: Sandy Wikle

7. Mentoring With 3D Printers

Teacher: Jake Spearson, Helena Middle School and Helena High School

“Mentoring With 3D Printers” will fund the purchase of two MakerBot 3D Printers. The printers will benefit middle and high school Industrial Art and Drafting students. Middle school students will be mentored by high school students in how to design models and use 3D printers. This project provides support and guidance to middle school students, making the difficult transition to high school easier; and gives high schoolers the opportunity to learn mentoring skills.

Sponsor: Dick Anderson Construction

8. Art Feeds the Soul

Teacher: Justine Alberts, Hawthorne Elementary School and Jon Stilson, Central Elementary School

This project will pair the Holter’s Art Feeds and Artist-in-Residence programs with K-5 students in two elementary buildings, immersing learners in a world of social emotional learning and creativity. This project will work to incorporate components of socio-emotional learning, art education, and collaboration in a digital environment and provide students with tools and outlets to express, name and tame their feelings.

Sponsor: Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation

9. Playing for Life

Teacher: Jennifer Schaefer, Jim Darcy Elementary School

“Playing for Life” will equip kindergarten students with life skills and practice engaging in cooperative play. Students will have access to a variety of materials for both indoor and outdoor activities and books to help them learn communication skills in how to play, take turns, share and solve problems.

Sponsor: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana

BY THE NUMBERS:

To date, the Helena Education Foundation has awarded 376 grants, totalling more than \$736,258!

149 High school grants

61 Middle school grants

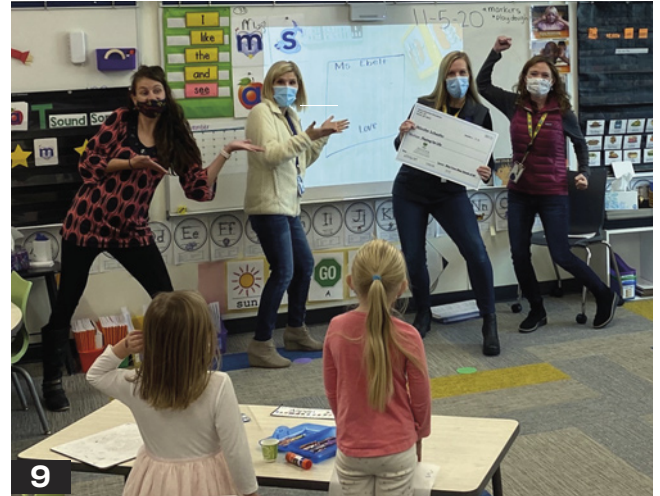
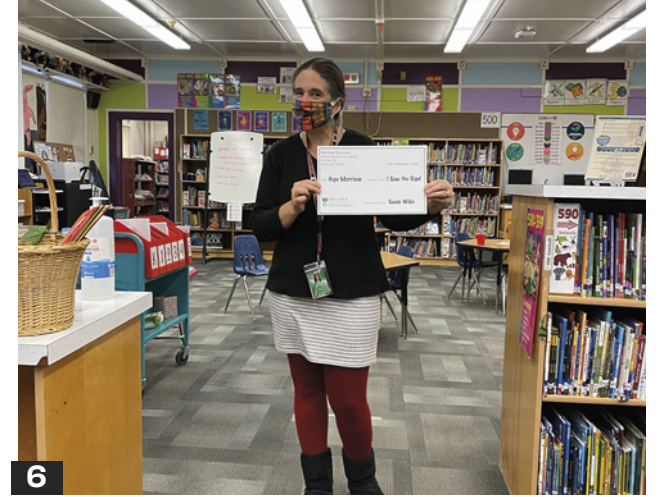
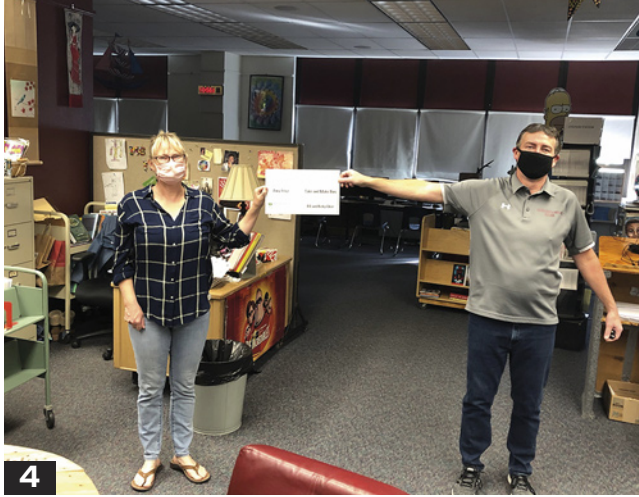
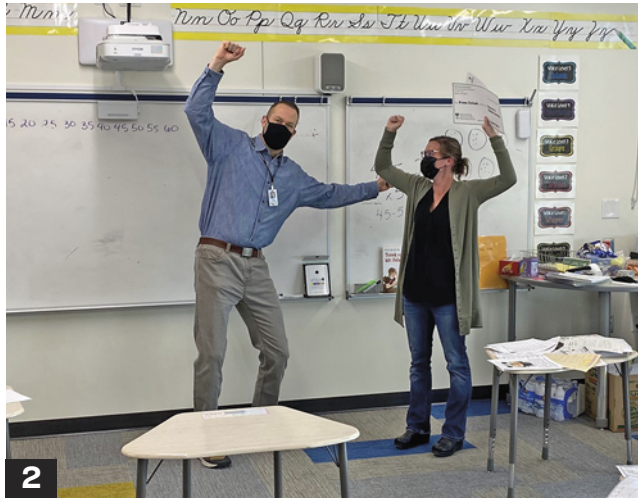
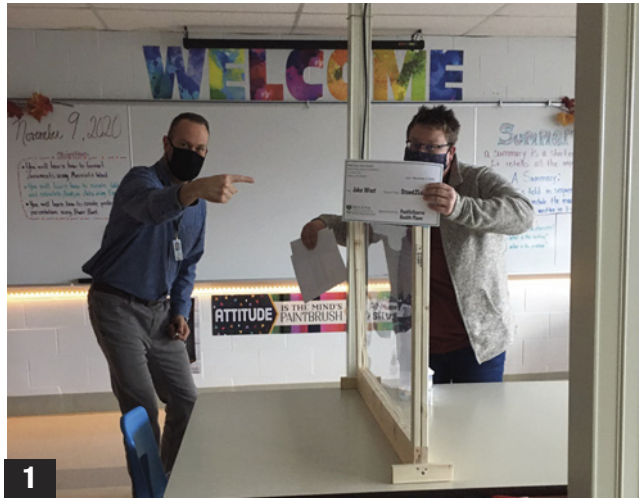
13 PAL grants

155 Elementary grants

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

Learn more about the Helena Education Foundation:

hefmt.org



Thank you to the HEF Fall 2020 grant sponsors:



BlueCross BlueShield  
of Montana

Edward Jones®  
Ed Clinch  
Financial Advisor



DICK ANDERSON  
CONSTRUCTION

Bill and Becky  
Eiker



DENNIS & PHYLLIS  
WASHINGTON  
FOUNDATION



Sandy  
Wikle



## 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.

- All grants are named after major donors to the Helena Education Foundation.

## NEW this year: Mini Great Ideas Grants

Mini Great Ideas Grants offer additional funding for enrichment opportunities for students. Educators may apply for up to \$500 per project. Grants are offered in four cycles per school year, and provide more flexibility for smaller learning projects.

“We all know that it is an essential, fundamental reality that all of our kids must have a solid educational opportunity and experience to grow, succeed and enjoy a happy, fruitful life. The Helena Education Foundation has become the bridge in the relationships between the student, the teacher and the community, linking us together in support and success. Capital Sports is proud to be able to support the Helena Education Foundation. Thank you to HEF for your vision and efforts towards the best education possible for Helena students and families!” —Ed Beall, Capital Sports



## Highlights from past grant awards:

### ► CNC Hypertherm Powermax 85:

To address a national shortage of welders, this grant funded the purchase of a new cutting system for Industrial Arts students. The project focused on providing options for future employment ranging from immediate employment, to enrolling in a two-year or four-year college to acquire a degree.

- **Reading Into the Future:** This grant provided first grade teachers with supplemental reading materials to enrich the learning of all students. The high interest books are used in a small groups to promote reading and academic growth for years to come.



**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

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. 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  
PO Box 792  
Helena, MT 59624

Questions?  
406.443.2545  
hef@mt.net



**Credit card payments are accepted online at [www.hefmt.org](http://www.hefmt.org)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like to be listed? \_\_\_\_\_

Gift in honor of? \_\_\_\_\_

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

School: \_\_\_\_\_ When/Graduation year: \_\_\_\_\_

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