

11

The
Helena Education
Foundation awards
Spring 2021
Great Ideas Grants

**GREAT
IDEAS!**

1. Learning Station Materials

Teacher: Sheridan Lang, Bryant Elementary School

Learning stations allow students to work at different levels and in small groups. Math stations will offer flash cards, a math board game, and small white boards for practicing the curricular skill for the week. Reading stations will offer core instruction as well as independent work with a regular reading lesson—offering more rigorous material for some or support for those who are missing certain skills.

Sponsor: First Interstate Bank

2. Challenging Students Through Complex Projects for Furniture and Cabinetmaking

Teacher: Tom Kain, Capital High School

This grant will fund the purchase of various saw attachments: a taper/straight jig to allow students to make tapered cuts on a table saw; a rail coping sled to safely cut stiles and rails for raised panel doors and a precision miter gauge and miter gauge fence to make very complex cuts on a table saw. Industrial Technology students will enhance their nightstand cabinets and jewelry boxes and Carpentry/Cabinetmaking students will be more creative in the furniture and cabinetmaking projects they build from their own designs.

Sponsor: Helena Hardwoods and Ray Flaherty and Lisa Larsen

3. Empowering Readers

Teacher: Joice Franzen, Bryant Elementary School

How do you shop for books? In this project the 3000+ novels of the library will be reorganized by genre, just like your favorite bookstore, allowing readers to easily find books of interest. Marketing experts know that if a customer is looking for a particular title, they may be enticed to purchase more books if similar books are conveniently placed together. Also, if a customer has no idea what to purchase, they are likely aware of what type of story they would like to read, by grouping the stories by type, bookstores receive more sales. Our “customers” can “shop” the library to easily find their next perfect read!

Sponsor: Crowley Fleck, PLLP

4. Virtual Space

Teacher: DeLacy Humbert, Capital High School

Astronomy is a hard subject for young science students to grasp because it seems pretty intangible. Most astronomy can only be observed using expensive equipment at night. However, new virtual reality systems feature programs specific to space exploration and study. This grant will fund the purchase of an Oculus Quest 2 which will allow students to virtually tour the International Space Station and the solar system, bringing interactive space into our classroom.

Sponsor: The Christensen Family

5. Steel Drums for Inclusive Music

Teacher: Sarah Dramstad, Rossiter Elementary School

Integrating steel pan drums into the general music classroom will diversify the instrument inventory and expand students’ awareness of music around the world. Additionally, steel drums will improve the inclusivity of the long-standing ukulele unit, which students love. These drums, originating in Trinidad, have a bright, joyful timbre that most children have never heard and will provide a great opportunity to learn about an unfamiliar cultural heritage.

Sponsor: Dr. Sri Vellanki and Helena Dermatology, Mt Aesthetics.

6. Decoding Our Way to Success

Teacher: Amber Byrd, Broadwater Elementary School

A decodable text is a story or passage that follows a systemic and sequential phonics approach. This grant will fund the purchase of decodable texts for third graders, allowing students the opportunity to practice reading many words that follow the letter/sound correspondence they are studying, including only words with sounds the child has already learned. Decodables offer children a chance to apply blending skills rather than guess and offer multiple opportunities to practice words with specific spelling patterns.

Sponsor: In Memory of Jan Peccia

7. Beyond the Books: A Library of Things

Teacher: Sarah Dramstad, Rossiter Elementary School

The Beyond the Books project will expand our school’s lending library so that students can check out STEM makers’ kits, family games, and musical instruments. Our “Library of Things” will make enrichment and family engagement opportunities accessible to every student (and family) in our school.

Sponsor: Dowl

8. Let’s Get TIGen

Teacher: Cindy Galbavy, Helena High School

The welding industry standard for sharpening tungsten has evolved beyond the grinder method we have used with our students thus far. This grant will fund the purchase of a Tungsten sharpener, the standard on a job site. Helping our students master the current technology will better prepare them for future jobs.

Sponsor: Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation

9. High and Low: What’s the Difference

Teacher: Jennifer Skogley, Smith Elementary School

Do you hear high sounds or low sounds? A seemingly easy question, but not for our youngest musicians! Hearing the difference between high and low is a fundamental skill students learn in elementary music, but it’s not an easy one to master. High and loud are often synonymous to kids, while low and soft seem to mean the same to them. Students need a variety of ways to explore the difference between high and low sounds. Orff instruments, boomwhackers and children’s literature funded by this grant will provide students with more ways to explore high and low sounds and explore and build skills.

Sponsor: Laura Holmes

10. Panther Printing

Teacher: Jesika Fisher, Bryant Elementary School

This grant is focused on equipping at-risk 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students with social, life and applicable business skills. The skills that students will gain are tangible (silk-screening, money management, customer service, verbal and written communication skills) and internal (confidence, self-efficacy, perseverance and grit). Training and support in silk screening will be facilitated through the Holter Museum, local business owner, Papu Rincon, and former fourOsix manager, Isaac Fisher.

Sponsor: Tim Speyer

11. Pathways to Performance

Teacher: Olivia Blood, Bryant Elementary School

A sensory path is a series of marks on the floor or wall indicating specific movements for kids to follow. The Pathways to Performance project will create developmentally appropriate sensory pathways for students ranging from Kindergarten to 5th grade, providing students with a healthy and productive way to release stress and tension, increase their focus and attention, and discover new ways to find academic, social and emotional success.

Sponsor: Shodair Children’s Hospital

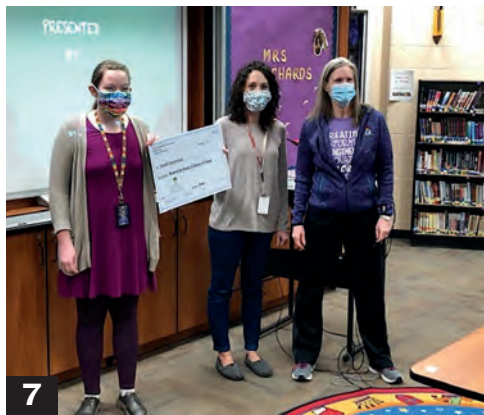
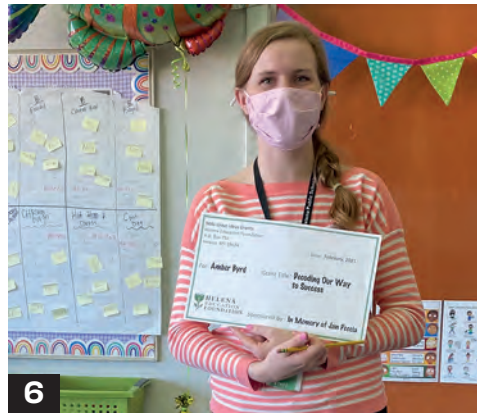
BY THE NUMBERS:

To date, the Helena Education Foundation has awarded **393** grants, totalling more than **\$757,770!**

149 High school grants ★ **13** PAL grants

61 Middle school 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.



Thank you to the HEF Spring 2021 grant sponsors:



The Christensen Family

Ray Flaherty and Lisa Larsen



Dr. Sri Vellanki

In Memory of Jan Peccia



Tim Speyer

Laura Holmes



Learn more about the Helena Education Foundation:
hefmt.org
Great schools are everyone's business



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 have been witness to the beginnings, growth, and maturation of the Helena Education Foundation. They have never deviated from their mission to involve students, teachers, school staffs, and the community in creative educational programs and opportunities. They are all about enthusiasm, innovation, promotion, enrichment, encouragement, and celebration. Over the years, we have watched this tiny staff make an art of strategically identifying the changing needs of students and teachers in our community. This laser focus has enabled them to provide a targeted approach to funding opportunities that are important and relevant. Their enthusiasm attracts community donors and volunteers like us who believe in their agenda, appreciate their wise allocation of funds, and celebrate the outcome of their efforts.

—Ray Flaherty and Lisa Larsen



Highlights from past grant awards:

- ▶ **Mentoring With 3D Printer:** “Mentoring With 3D Printers” allowed the purchase of two MakerBot 3D Printers. The printers benefit middle and high school Industrial Art and Drafting students. Middle schools students are being mentored by high school students in using 3D printers and designing models.
- ▶ **Take and Make Bins:** This grant purchased 20 different Take and Make Boxes that can be checked out of the library by students for one to two weeks. Each box contains a unique set of tools for a unique project, such as a coding challenge, a knitting project and other art, science and engineering activities.

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



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: _____

Credit card payments are accepted online at www.hefmt.org

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