



Spark Grants offer additional enrichment opportunities for students. Educators may apply for up to \$500 per project; and grants are offered in four cycles per school year. Spark Grants provide more flexibility and accessibility for scaled-down learning projects.

To date the Helena Education Foundation has awarded
422 Great Ideas and Spark Grants totaling more than \$758,000

160 high school grants ★ 13 PAL grants
64 middle school grants ★ 185 elementary school grants

SEL Reads for SEL Needs

Teacher: Hope Morrison, Hawthorne Elementary School
Funds for this grant will purchase children's books to support the social and emotional growth of our students at Hawthorne School, providing classroom teachers with opportunities to discuss character traits, such as perseverance, responsibility and compassion through stories. Sample titles include *Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Day* by Emily Pearson, a wonderful story about random acts of kindness, and *The Gigantic Turnip*, a traditional Russian tale about cooperation.

Sponsor: Donna Davis

Genrefying the Broadwater Collection

Teacher: Marla Unruh, Broadwater Elementary School
Studies show that reclassifying library books by genre—especially fiction, biography, and graphic novels—makes it easier for students to find books they want and thus, increases the number of students checking out and reading books. This grant will provide the materials to reorganize the books in the library by genre.

Sponsor: The Helen Christensen Family

Volume and Mass

Teacher: Robyn Smith, Thea Secrease and Starsha Fredrickson, Broadwater Elementary School
This grant will supply all 3rd graders at Broadwater with the kinesthetic materials and task cards used in the Montessori classrooms to support learning mathematical and scientific concepts including—inequalities, mass, comparisons, operations and order of volume.

Sponsor: Dr. Scott Pargot and Katy Wright

Who Was?

Teacher: Kellen Alger, Jefferson Elementary School
The books in the "Who Was?" series are engaging and informative texts that introduce students to a diverse selection of significant figures. These books will supplement and extend the reading curriculum, while also providing students with the opportunity to explore the lives of historical figures.

Sponsor: Tricia Solerno

Let's Make the CricUT

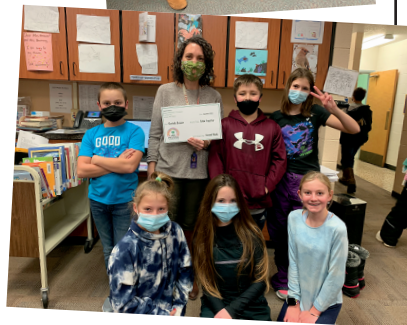
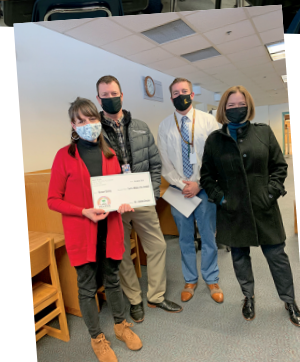
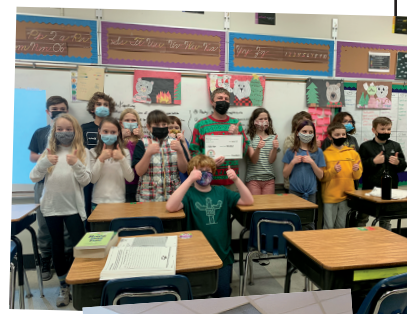
Teacher: Susan Selvig, Capital High School
Through this Spark Grant, students will unleash their creativity with the power and versatility of the Cricut Maker 3. Integrated with Cricut's Design Space, students can visualize a project and apply the design process using computer-aided design (CAD) software. Digital resources and materials are plentiful and varied, which allow for creativity, critical thinking and problem solving. The Smart Cricut Maker 3 can cut, write and score over 300+ types of materials and will be an updated addition to the CHS FABLAB.

Sponsor: Dr. Jaden Erwin

Stick Together

Teacher: Rochelle Brower, Rossiter Elementary School
During library time, students will collectively create a secret picture that will emerge over time, using letters that correspond to small squares of colored paper. Benefits of this project include the use of fine-motor skills, identifying colors/letters/patterns, creating an opportunity for social connections, learning and reinforcing collaborative work with others, providing students with a sense of accomplishment and pride in their work, and promoting focus and relaxation.

Sponsor: Ascent Bank



Our Deep Gratitude for These Spark Grant Sponsors:



The Helen
Christensen Family

Donna Davis

Dr. Scott Pargot
and Katy Wright

Tricia Solerno



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