



8

The
Helena Education
Foundation awards
Fall 2021
Great Ideas Grants

**GREAT
IDEAS!**

**+ Spark
Grants**

1. Opening Our Minds to a Diverse World

Teacher: Tracie Shepherd, Smith Elementary School

Opening Our Minds to a Diverse World is a school-wide initiative to foster a love of reading in students at all grade levels and will allow the entire school to share and enjoy the same book at the same time. Nurturing respect, empathy and acceptance of others is a key goal of the project. The school principal will introduce and share the books with each grade level.

Sponsor: Crowley Fleck, PLLP

2. Growing Greens 365

Teacher: Heather Bode, Hawthorne Elementary School

Growing Greens 365 is an indoor extension of the outdoor school community garden. Third grade students study plants and how they grow; through *Growing Greens 365*, students will have an indoor laboratory the whole school can enjoy. In addition, it will bring community members into classrooms (or onto playgrounds) to share knowledge and excitement for gardening.

Sponsor: The Base Camp

3. A Collaboration Learning Commons for the HMS Community

Teacher: Amy Friez and Hope Morrison, Helena Middle School

This grant will fund the purchase of furniture, equipment and supplies to assist in converting the former computer lab into a collaborative “learning commons” where students, staff and community members can work and collaborate on a variety of projects.

Sponsor: First Interstate Bank

4. Island Drummers

Teacher: Jennifer Skogley, Broadwater Elementary School

This grant will fund the purchase of 2 tubano drums. Students will use the new tubano drums to explore high and low sounds, and to add new depth and texture to the songs they learn in music.

Sponsor: Helena Dermatology

5. Calming My Mind and Body to Learn

Teacher: Olivia Blood, Bryant Elementary School

This grant will help to create “calm down” spaces throughout the school. It will provide tools and strategies to help students work through difficult and frustrating situations that may cause them to lose the ability to learn and function their best in their classrooms.

Sponsor: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana

6. Everyday Speech Membership

Teacher: Brittney McMahon Cecrle, Rachel Ueland and Sarah Greenwood, Hawthorne Elementary School

A membership to the Everyday Speech website will be utilized by the Building Team (composed of Administration, School Psychologist, Speech Pathologist, School Counselor, and Special Education Teacher) to provide access to quality social stories, social videos, and lessons and materials to teach expected social behaviors in school settings as well as peer relationships and adult interactions.

Sponsor: Dr. Quinn Erwin, Quinn Erwin Dental

7. Life’s Complicated—Let’s Model It

Teacher: Sarah Urban, Capital High School

This grant will fund the purchase of modeling supplies to be used in all levels of Biology as part of Next Generation Science Standards. Students will use the models, games and manipulatives purchased with this grant to learn about abstract biology topics.

Sponsor: Morrison-Maierle

8. Adding Tone Colors to the Music Room

Teacher: Kaitlin Albus, Bryant Elementary School

This grant will fund the purchase of two soprano glockenspiels, an alto glockenspiel and a thunder drum to broaden students’ hands-on opportunities and will be used to enhance soundscapes and dramatic stories and songs.

Sponsor: Marcia Eidel

What is the Great Ideas Grants Program?

Great Ideas Grants put money directly in the hands of educators, enabling them to turn their innovative teaching strategies into action. This year, Foundation staff updated and simplified the GIG application process. See our new website for details.



- All grants are named for major donors to the Helena Education Foundation; please contact HEF if you are interested in sponsoring a Great Ideas Grant.

BY THE NUMBERS

To date, the Helena Education Foundation has awarded **416** grants, totalling more than **\$755,458!**

159 High school grants

13 PAL grants

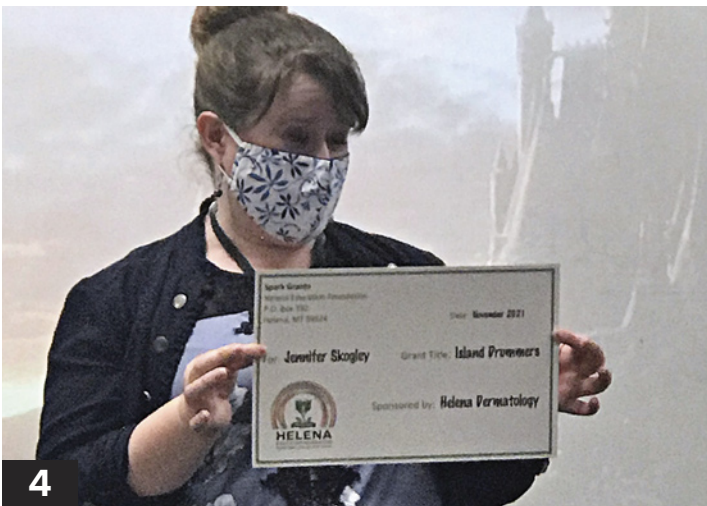
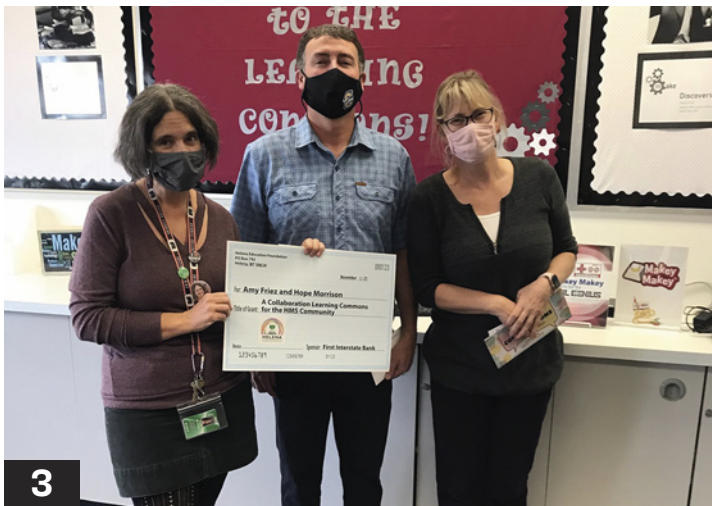
64 Middle school grants

180 Elementary grants

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

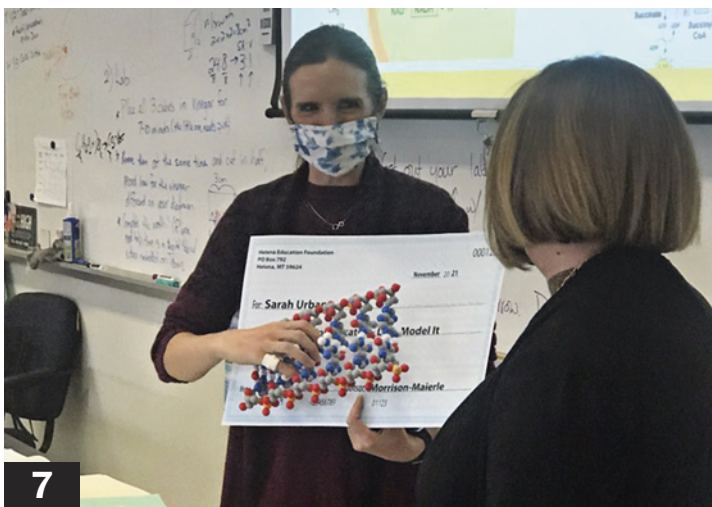
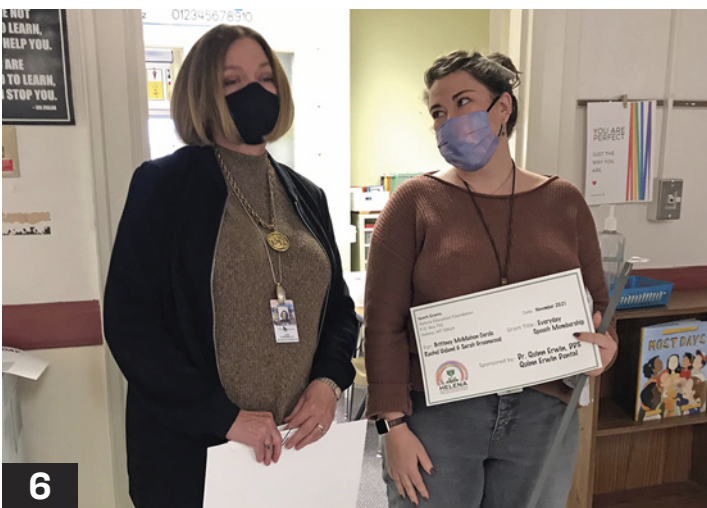
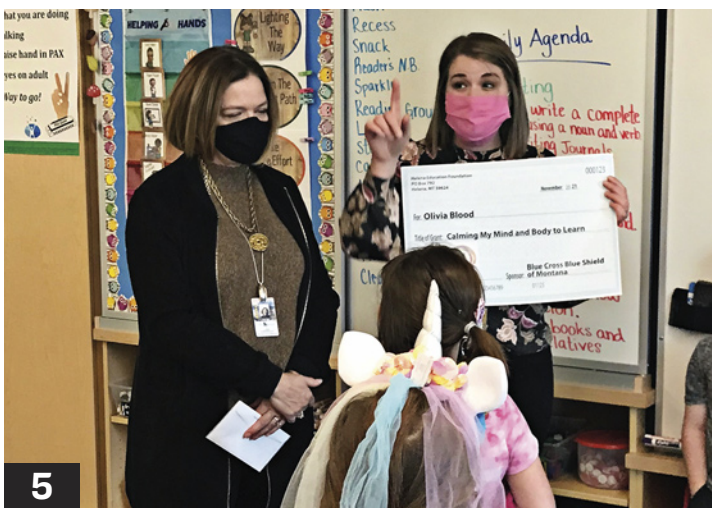


THANK YOU
to our HEF Fall 2021 grant sponsors:



**CROWLEY
FLECK** PLLP
ATTORNEYS

Marcia Eidel





New Year, New Name

SPARK GRANTS

To augment our Great Ideas Grants program, last year we piloted a grant program to provide additional funding for smaller scale enrichment opportunities for students. The program was a big success among educators; we awarded \$12,000 in 20/21. In its second year, we renamed the program Spark Grants. Educators may apply for up to \$500 in four cycles per school year. Spark Grants provide more flexibility for smaller learning projects. Like Great Ideas Grants, Spark Grants are sponsored by local businesses and individuals. Contact HEF if you or your business would like to sponsor a grant for students.

“The Helena Education Foundation continues to find amazing ways to invest in the students and educators in our community.

From Spark Grants to Great Conversations and the Celebration of Excellence, HEF leads the way in supporting public schools through financial investment in teachers, innovative technologies and classroom resources.

As a business partner, we are proud to support HEF and acknowledge the immense value our schools provide in the Helena community. Our schools are places we gather, learn, share, play and experience.

We celebrate and invest in the Helena Education Foundation's commitment to enhancing the experience of public education students and educators now and into the future.” —Tim Lynch, Manager, The Base Camp



Highlights from past grant awards:

- ▶ **Let's Get TIGen:** This grant funded the purchase of a Tungsten sharpener for the welding classes, to replace outdated equipment and enable students to master the latest technology and better prepare for future jobs
- ▶ **Pathways to Performance:** The *Pathways to Performance* project created developmentally appropriate sensory pathways for students ranging from Kindergarten to 5th grade, providing students with healthy and productive ways to release stress and tension, increase their focus and attention, and discover new ways to find academic, social and emotional success.

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)

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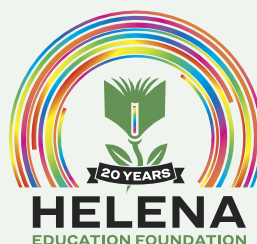
☐ Please contact me regarding a planned gift or gift of securities or other assets

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