



EXTRA! CREDIT



2022-23 CALENDAR

For Educators, Parents, Students, and Community Members

September 2022

- 1-23 Fabulous Firsts**
check with your home school for details
- 7 Fall Great Ideas Grants workshop**
- 11 Carnival Classic**
- 27 Spark Grants due**

October 2022

- 4 Fall Great Ideas Grants due**

November 2022

- 16 Great Conversations and Let's Talk About Great Teachers**

December 2022

- 6 Spark Grants due**

January 2023

- 11 Spring Great Ideas Grants workshop**
- 1 Spark Grants and Spring Great Ideas Grants due**

February 2023

- 3 Distinguished Achiever nominations due**
- 10 Pen & Ink/Harrison Writing Award submissions due**

March 2023

- 28 Mini Great Ideas Grants due**

May 2023

- 8 Celebration of Excellence**
- 23 Pen & Ink Magazine Launch Party**



HEF ANNUAL PROGRAMS

CARNIVAL CLASSIC

Carnival Classic is a community-wide celebration of public education and kick-off to the new school year held annually at Memorial Park in September.

GREAT IDEAS GRANTS

Great Ideas Grants award more than \$40,000 annually to teachers for innovative classroom projects, materials, and field trips. Grants range from \$1,250 to \$5,000 each and are awarded in 2 cycles per year. HEF hosts informational workshops to help educators navigate the application process and get feedback on their project ideas before applying. In 2021/2022 HEF *Great Ideas Grants* funded a variety of field trips, projects, and equipment including modeling supplies for high school biology classes, a folktale storytelling and music project, a journalism project for teens, two new GMAW welders, and play-based learning spaces for kindergartners.

LET'S TALK ABOUT GREAT TEACHERS

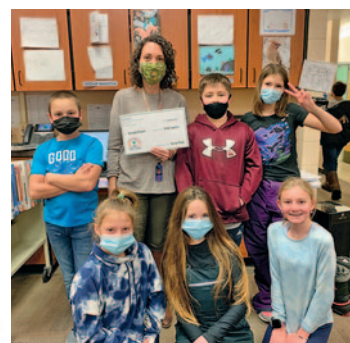
The *Great Conversations* event opens with *Let's Talk About Great Teachers*, an acknowledgement for a selection of those special teachers who make a difference in the lives of our children every day.

CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

Celebration of Excellence honors Distinguished Scholars and Achievers and Distinguished Educators—celebrating excellence, achievement, and leadership.

ISSUES INSTITUTES

Issues Institutes provide a forum for Helena public school students, teachers, families, and community leaders to learn in person and online from leading professionals around the country and address issues affecting youth. Recent examples include opioid addiction (*Chasing the Dragon*), teen suicide (*Cracked Not Broken*), and others that included a science writer (*Secrets of the Brain*, with



SPARK GRANTS

Spark Grants award grants of \$500 or less to teachers for small projects. Grants are awarded quarterly; see the calendar for due dates.

GREAT CONVERSATIONS

Great Conversations provides a night of thought-provoking conversation about relevant topics to promote lifelong learning.

FABULOUS FIRSTS

Fabulous Firsts gives an age-appropriate book of their own to all incoming first graders (over 600), as well as full sets of the year's selections to school libraries and the Lewis & Clark Library. Each elementary school hosts a distribution and reading event to celebrate.

Sam Kean) and a thought leader (*Because I Said I Would*, with Alex Sheen); as well online *Issues Institutes* including *A Conversation with Former Ambassador to Russia, Michael McFaul*; *QAnon, A Conspiracy for our Time* with Jono Drake; and *Celebrate Earth Day with a Trip to Mars* with NASA's Dr. Chris McKay and CHS's very own Sarah Urban.

HARRISON WRITING AWARDS AND PEN & INK MAGAZINE

Harrison Writing Awards focus on the importance of writing skills and recognize outstanding young writers with cash awards. *Pen & Ink Magazine* is a student-produced publication featuring the creative work of student writers and artists. The Foundation also organizes a

launch party to showcase student art and at which students read their original works for the community.

NEW EDUCATOR WELCOME BREAKFAST

New Educator Welcome Breakfast supports new educators and their teaching mentors.

SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

School Board of Trustees Appreciation Luncheon thanks our hard working school Trustees.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

HEF is sometimes able to fund special projects, presentations, and events for schools and the community that are initiated by educators and administrators. Last year, HEF partnered with generous community businesses and individuals to supply all of Helena's elementary schools with two sets of Sensory Pathways—colorful exercises created with developmental growth in mind, designed to provide multi-stage tasks to help develop motor skills, balance, hand-eye coordination, and spatial awareness, as well as provide critical “brain breaks” to calm and refocus students throughout the school day. Sensory Pathways encourage better academic focus and physical coordination and build socialization and problem-solving skills.

“The Helena Education Foundation works tirelessly to make public education in Helena the best it can be. They encourage our staff to be creative and innovative through the Great Ideas and Spark Grants while also shining a light on the exemplary work of our educators through the Celebration of Excellence. Each year, they provide us the opportunity to learn from others through Great Conversations. HEF continually works toward their motto that “Great schools are everyone’s business!”

—Nick Radley

Principal, Central Elementary School



YOUR HELENA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Who we are:

- ▶ A non-profit charitable organization
- ▶ Independent of the Helena Public School District but complementary to and collaborative with it.
- ▶ Dependent on donations and sponsorships to fund programs
- ▶ Governed by a community representative board of directors
- ▶ A recognized leader and mentor among Montana's education foundations
- ▶ Thoughtful, responsible stewards of donations received

What we do:

- ▶ Provide value to Helena school students and staff by serving as a catalyst and funding source for new ideas, programs, and educational methods
- ▶ Provide private support to fund innovation and opportunities for all students beyond that which is constitutionally mandated

Why we do it:

- ▶ Public schools forge healthy communities and enhance our quality of life. HEF provides opportunities for the entire community to invest time, assets, and talent in our schools.

Whom we serve:

- ▶ Students
- ▶ Parents
- ▶ Teachers
- ▶ Administrators
- ▶ The Helena community
- ▶ Donors who value and support quality education

We believe that:

Great Schools are Everyone's Business!

We welcome your ideas, time, and support for our many worthwhile programs.

Together, we impact our students, teachers, and public schools in positive ways!



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Foundation Staff

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**Great Schools Are
Everyone's Business**