

HELENA EDUCATION FOUNDATION PRESENTS



GREAT IDEAS



Fall 2022 Great Ideas and Spark Grants
awarded to Helena Public Schools educators





Great Ideas and **Spark Grants** empower educators to go beyond what's expected to create novel and foundational experiences for Helena students. All grants are named for major donors to the Helena Education Foundation; please contact HEF if you are interested in sponsoring a Great Ideas or Spark Grant.

1. Cozy Comfort Comic Corner

Teacher: Jeanne Morigeau, Capital High School

The Capital High School library will welcome students to take refuge in a cozy corner for independent reading and social emotional comfort. This grant will create a variety of comfortable spaces with soft surfaces, inviting, homelike furniture, and a warming LED fireplace that will envelop students in a nurturing environment—an oasis in a frantic teenage world.

Sponsor: Best Western Premier Helena Great Northern Hotel

2. Stepping Back in Time: Recreating Montana's Ghost Towns

Teacher: Coburn Currier, Ray Bjork Learning Center

This grant will provide funding for an in-depth, interdisciplinary, in-the-field learning opportunity for students focusing on Montana history. The funding will provide busing, meals, and an authentic tour of Bannack State Park. Information gained from this experience will be incorporated into a final film project by the students and shared with the Helena community.

Sponsor: Jack and Penny Copps

3. Modern Band Educational Tours

Teacher: Thomas Baty and Zach Harris, Capital High School

This grant would fund the purchase of instruments and equipment—think electric ukuleles, guitars and amps—that will allow “Modern Band” students to provide quality outreach to the community and other schools in the form of popular music concerts. Students will learn many skills under the umbrellas of “touring” and “music performance” and inspire students to pursue opportunities in music education.

Sponsor: Anonymous

4. 130 Years of Service

Teacher: Jodi Delaney, Broadwater Elementary School

Broadwater School will be celebrating 130 years of service in the Helena community. To mark this very special occasion, students will conduct historical research, gather photos and memories from past graduates, install a professional display of their research in their school, and create an outdoor mural. A lot has changed since 1893!

Sponsor: In Memory of Mark Sweeney

5. Exploring Montana's Indigenous Cultures Through Language

Teacher: Kellen Alger, Jefferson Elementary School

This grant will fund materials students will use to explore Montana's indigenous cultures through their languages. Using Salish and Blackfeet flashcards and indigenous games, students will acquire some basic vocabulary and gain a greater appreciation for the role language plays in indigenous cultures.

Sponsor: Jack Stults and Daphne Crosbie

6. Electrifying Interest into Electrical Careers

Teacher: Tom Kain and Lucas Canney, Capital High School

Capital High Carpentry classes will purchase electrical wiring simulators to safely teach students how to wire circuits found in residential and commercial buildings. The goal is to increase students' interest in joining the workforce as electricians and provide more hands-on learning opportunities for our students.

Sponsor: Morrison-Maierle

7. Educating Through Flexible, Calming Spaces

Teacher: Deborah McNay, Warren Elementary School

Sensory resources will be purchased for school-wide access, supporting students in all grades who struggle to focus and concentrate. Implementation and use of items like wobble stools, bouncy bands, weighted lap pads and more will empower students to learn and practice coping and regulation skills, ultimately increasing student confidence, engagement, and learning.

Sponsor: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana

8. Cub's Den

Teacher: KC Richem, Broadwater Elementary School

Students need to be able to recognize when they are having a big feeling that needs resolution before they become agitated and disruptive in the classroom. Time in the Cub's Den with some soft furniture, pillows, kinetic sand, and games that address how to constructively channel emotions will help students self-regulate so they can make the most of their instructional time and spend less time away from the classroom.

Sponsor: Carol and Chris Hunter

9. CHS Racing Robotics

Teacher: Jake Warner, Capital High School

Remote control cars combine many facets of coding and robotics. With the 200 piece Elegoo Mega 2560 Ultimate Starter Kit, students will learn about coding, design, troubleshooting, motors, motor drivers, Bluetooth connectivity, 3D Printing, and teamwork!

Sponsor: Nancy Cormier

10. Accessible Music for All

Teacher: Sarah Dramstad, Four Georgians Elementary

This grant will outfit the classroom with materials necessary to make instrument participation comfortable and engaging for all students. Noise-reducing headphones will help students who have sensory issues. Adaptive mallets are useful for students who are still developing their grip strength and motor skills or who have weakness in one or more hands. Finally, step stools can be used as platforms to make the smallest instruments (glockenspiels) more comfortable for big kids to play and the largest instruments (bass xylophones) accessible for the smallest students to reach.

Sponsor: Norma Tirrell

11. Kindergarten is a Family

Teacher: Jennifer Schaefer, Jim Darcy Elementary School

In this kindergarten class, the school year starts with *Our Class Is a Family* by Shannon Olsen. Students learn about how everyone brings different skills and gifts to create a unique classroom of learners. Books, toys, puzzles, and calm down tools representing an array of individual abilities and family structures will be shared across all 4 kindergarten classrooms and available to students and teachers to use.

Sponsor: Helena Abstract and Title

12. Survival Unit CHS Lifetime Sports

Teacher: Kade Kimball, Capital High School

Students in the Lifetime Sports class will research and build a winter survival shelter using tools purchased for this project. On half day trips to MacDonald Pass, the students will apply their knowledge of knot tying, starting fires without matches and demonstrate their understanding of orienteering and map reading.

Sponsor: Capital Sports and Western

13. Game Based Learning!

Teacher: Megan Krissovich, Four Georgians Elementary

Game-based learning encourages young minds to think outside the box. Incorporating STEM games/projects into the classroom will allow students to work with one another while building and developing critical thinking skills that tie into STEM subjects like science and engineering. Games purchased through this grant will improve logical and spatial reasoning and planning skills through the fun of gameplay.

Sponsor: Peter Sullivan and Barbara Harris

14. “Wheelie” Great Middle School Pottery

Teacher: Lori Smith, Helena Middle School

7th graders love working with clay, so Helena Middle School Art students will use 12 table-top pottery wheels to create “wheelie” great pottery! Students will learn about and interpret different cultures, experiment and problem solve, and creatively express themselves. When finished, students will have an authentic work of art to keep. Pottery is the type of artwork made at school which lasts a lifetime and beyond!

Sponsor: Dick and Neva Porte

15. Cubs Connecting Through Art

Teacher: Emily Currier, C.R. Anderson Elementary School

Doing art allows students to share their thoughts, feelings, personality, and life experiences with others. Creating art together inspires and builds a sense of community. In this club, students will have the opportunity to make connections, build friendships, and have fun together through art. The grant will purchase quality artistic utensils, sketch pads and drawing books for use during art club.

Sponsor: Dr. Quinn Erwin

Our deep gratitude for these sponsors of Great Ideas Grants and Spark Grants

Jack and Penny Copps

Norma Tirrell

Anonymous



In Memory of Mark Sweeney

Richard and Neva Porte

Nancy Cormier



Jack Stults and Daphne Crosbie

Peter Sullivan and Barbara Harris



Carol and Chris Hunter







What is the Helena Education Foundation Grants Program?

Great Ideas and Spark Grants put money directly in the hands of educators, enabling them to turn their innovative teaching strategies into action.

BY THE NUMBERS

To date, the Helena Education Foundation has awarded
456 grants
totalling more than **\$815,056**

184

High school grants

13

PAL grants

69

Middle school grants

203

Elementary grants

The **Helena Education Foundation Grants** programs enhance the education and experiences of virtually all of Helena's 8,000 students.



Helena Education Foundation works to enrich education in Helena Public Schools through consistent community investment of time, talent, funding, and other resources, providing students, staff, and the community with unparalleled educational opportunities and experiences.

YES! I believe great schools are everyone's business.
I want to support this important public education partnership

Method of Payment:

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- I'd like to pledge \$ _____ Please bill me: monthly quarterly
- Please contact me regarding a planned gift or gift of securities or other assets

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Send to: Helena Education Foundation
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School: _____ When/Graduation year: _____

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