

HELENA EDUCATION FOUNDATION PRESENTS



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

### 1. Art on Display!

**Teacher:** Kim Cook, Capital High School

Art on Display! funds the installation of three display cases in Capital High's main hallway to showcase student work. The grant also provides portable display boards for temporary exhibits in the foyer during events such as concerts, plays, and games. Young artists will have opportunities to curate the displays and share their creativity and hard work with a wide audience.

**Sponsor:** Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation

### 2. Beyond Earth

**Teacher:** Libby Kenney, Tony Napoletano, and Amy Casne-Fetz, Central Elementary School

Beyond Earth purchases solar system resources including a telescope, storybooks, and hands-on learning manipulatives for students to explore their place in the universe. The telescope can be used in daylight so students can see the moon and many planets during school; it will also facilitate family engagement nights when families can observe stars and galaxies together.

**Sponsor:** PacificSource Health Plans

### 3. Book Buddies

**Teacher:** Chelsey Davis, Four Georgians and Taylee Schlauch, Capital High School

Book Buddies provides books, supplies, snacks, and transportation for a positive collaborative project between second and twelfth graders. Seniors will choose a picture book to read with a second grader. Then both students will interview each other, using that information to create short stories like those they shared.

**Sponsor:** DOWL

### 4. Place-based Perspectives on the Natural World

**Teacher:** Katie Knight and Jeremy Slead, PEAK GT

Fifty students in grades 6 through 10 will visit the Confederated Salish-Kootenai Reservation and Flathead Lake Biological Station to engage in microbiology research and explore traditional ecological knowledge and site-specific art. They will experience working methods for both scientific and tribal cultural practices to better understand and care for ecosystems.

**Sponsor:** Allegiance Benefit Plan Management

### 5. Living on the Land

**Teacher:** Claire Pichette and Missy Sampson, Helena High School

AP Environmental Science students will enjoy the beauty of Montana on a trip to the Mannix Ranch near Helmsville, the Blackfoot Challenge in Ovando, and the Rich Ranch in the Seeley-Swan area to learn about community and watershed level conservation, public lands, natural resource management, and how sustainable small businesses can thrive in our rural economy.

**Sponsor:** Bill and Judy Walter

### 6. Reeling in the Neatness

**Teacher:** Cindy Galbavy, Helena High School

Five new air hoses for the HHS CTE shop will make a big difference. Air hoses help run half of the equipment the students use in the shop and will use in the industry or at home as DIYers. Keeping a clean shop is a valuable employment skill, and the hoses will increase learning time by decreasing the daily clean-up routine.

**Sponsor:** HHS Class of 1962

### 7. ExplorationWorks Field Trip

**Teacher:** Alinon Arpin, Warren Elementary

Both 3rd grades visited ExplorationsWorks for a Lab Experience consisting of direct instruction from an Ex-Works Educator, free exploration following the lab, and opportunities to practice hands-on science, lab safety, and etiquette while also bearing witness to the excitement and passion of the greater science community.

**Sponsor:** Helena Home Team

### 8. Mind the Gap: Filling in Book Series Gaps in the Hawthorne Library

**Teacher:** Hope Morrison, Hawthorne Elementary School

Ever finished a book and had to wait for the next one in the series? Imagine if you went to the school library and that next book wasn't available. Unfortunately books get lost, students move, and the integrity of our series is compromised. This grant fills in the gaps in various series to motivate kids to keep reading.

**Sponsor:** Babs and Bill Leaphart

### 9. Poems are Teachers

**Teacher:** Kelly Connolly, Smith Elementary School

New poetry books that will be the foundation of poetry units for use at each grade level will lead students to explore poetic structure, discuss literal and figurative meaning, gain exposure to poetry as a strategy for working through feelings, and use words creatively to connect with others.

**Sponsor:** Mike Munck and Betsy Pennington

### 10. The Opera Under the Big Sky

**Teacher:** Kevin Cleary, CR Anderson Middle School

Intermountain Opera's new project, Wheels of Harmony, brings three local indigenous artists (Kate Morton, Shane Doyle, and J. Cruise Berry) to schools around Montana for an interactive workshop and performance. This program promotes opera, engages students and teachers in meaningful discussions about tribal nations and their cultures, and encourages students to consider careers in music performance. This grant made it possible for 500 3rd-8th grade students to enjoy the experience in Helena.

**Sponsor:** Tim Speyer

### 11. Cheep, Cheep Chicks

**Teacher:** Molly Moore and Wilma Tabaracci, Warren Elementary School

This grant purchased the materials to hatch, raise, and grow chicks. Kindergartners can watch the inside of the egg grow into a chick, see the egg hatching, and create safe habitats and care for a living creature. As students count the days to hatching, they'll write and read about oviparous animals.

**Sponsor:** Sandy Wikle

### 12. Helena Hen Houses

**Teacher:** Sara Grotbo, Helena Middle School

Materials purchased by the grant will enable students to build five waterfowl nesting structures working with representatives from Montana Wetlands and Waterfowl. The hen houses will be installed for long-term data collection and analysis as future students refill the hen houses, monitor their use, and draw connections between waterfowl populations and water quality.

**Sponsor:** Tricia Salerno

### 13. Disperse Some Verse

**Teacher:** Amy Friez, Helena Middle School

Many readers are attracted to the lyrical nature of verse novels; others are attracted to the less intimidating word count. They want more! HMS will add 30-40 titles to its library collection to ensure that students who are drawn to verse novels have access to a wide variety and keep reading.

**Sponsor:** Donna Davis

### 14. Scaling Up a Balanced Math Class

**Teacher:** Andy Roberts, Helena Middle School

This grant purchased 10 two-pan balances and a variety of counters of unlabeled weights. It's essential that students use physical objects to represent the abstract math problems seventh graders face. Students will use the balances to prove the weights of unknown objects, explain their steps using algebraic representation, and create a positive community as they share their ideas through the brainteasers.

**Sponsor:** Dave and Sandi Ashley

### 15. HHS Bengal Closet

**Teacher:** Lauren Gustafson, Helena High School

The Bengal Closet provides a safe space on-campus where enrolled HHS students can shop around for clothing that ranges in size and fashion. Sizes range from infant and youth to adult. The diversity of clothing items included caters to those who need or want clothes for themselves or for family members.

**Sponsor:** HHS Class of 1962

### 16. Mallets for All Musicians

**Teacher:** Nicole Evans, Hawthorne and Kessler Elementary Schools

New sets of mallets for the new classroom barred instruments include matching adaptive mallets to promote independence and confidence for all students. New mallets will mean students won't have to wait to play, or envy the sound that their neighbor's mallets make, because each child will have the right tools for successful music making.

**Sponsor:** Tom and Cathy Cherry

### 17. Helena History Field Trip

**Teacher:** Kelley Bundt, Four Georgians Elementary School

Fourth graders will complete their unit studying Montana history by touring Helena's historic downtown neighborhood and visiting buildings and sites they have studied in class. Guides from The Foundation for Montana History will enrich students' experience as they immerse themselves in our shared past.

**Sponsor:** In Memory of Chuck Johnson

### 18. Producing a Thinking Classroom

**Teacher:** Jennifer Mooney, Helena Middle School

This grant provides an iPad and pencil adaptor to transform the classroom into one where students are out of their seats using vertical workspaces for brainstorming mathematical thinking. The technology will allow the instructor to teach while moving between groups, immediately sharing relevant mathematical connections and students' discoveries, great ideas, or new methods.

**Sponsor:** Ross Duncan

### 19. Auction Adventures

**Teacher:** Bailey Osborne, Helena Middle School

As part of a classroom economy, students are "paid" for doing their homework (their job!). They also "pay rent" weekly. Left-over "money" students have can be spent in the class auction. This grant funds the purchase of school supplies, healthy snacks and other small auction items. Students learn critical life skills such as responsibility, accountability, budgeting, and patience.

**Sponsor:** Sandy Wikle

### 20. Love This? Read These.

**Teacher:** Ginger Ratzlaff, Kessler Elementary School

Similar to a "you might like this" announcement shown after watching a program on a streaming service or online shopping options, this project will display popular book covers along with similar titles to increase awareness of classics, past award-winners, or similar books which students might enjoy.

**Sponsor:** In Memory of Jan Peccia

### 21. Skincare Scientists

**Teacher:** Justi Owens and Sara Grotbo, Helena Middle School

Students will explore how light from the Sun causes changes in our world, working collaboratively to plan an experiment that tests various sunscreens' efficacy at blocking harmful UV radiation. They will also build color-changing UV detectors to remind them to stay safe in the summer sun.

**Sponsor:** Guardian Dermatology

### 22. Oh the Places We'll Go!

**Teacher:** Jennifer Schaefer, Anna Alger, Holly Westerberg, and Kayla Steffan, Jim Darcy Elementary School

Kindergartners at Jim Darcy will celebrate the culmination of their first year in the Helena Public Schools with a scavenger hunt field trip. They'll follow clues, ride on a yellow school bus, visit a park, meet with people they've shared their kindergarten year with, and top it off with ice cream!

**Sponsor:** Skye Hatten Photography



**Great Schools  
are Everyone's Business**

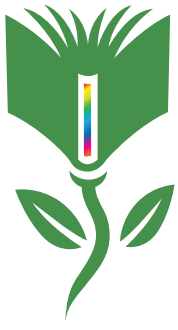




“ If you are considering making a difference in kids’ lives, think about donating to Helena Education Foundation. They are doing wonderful things in our community.”  
—Mary Ahmann-Hibbard, Helena Home Team







## 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  
**487 grants**  
totalling more than **\$841,543**

**190**

High school grants

**13**

PAL grants

**77**

Middle school grants

**214**

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:

- 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  
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Questions? 406.443.2545 | hef@mt.net



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