

The Helena Education Foundation awards **Fall 2019** Great Ideas Grants

12

GREAT IDEAS



Great schools are everyone's business

1. Sleeping Giant Soundscape

Teacher: Jennifer Skogley, Broadwater Elementary
(Soundscape (n): a piece of music considered in terms of its component sounds.) In *Sleeping Giant Soundscape*, 4th grade students will connect literature, music and science to create a musical illustration to the story about the people of Pupickton, who live in fear of their mountain, the Sleeping Giant! This project will include study of Helena's Sleeping Giant as well.

Sponsor: Peter Sullivan

2. Printing Pride

Teacher: Heather Ditch, Capital High School
Printing Pride will enable high school students to combine creativity and school pride, forging an overall connection to community. The funds will purchase printmaking equipment, providing students the opportunity to design and produce merchandise promoting school spirit while exploring a possible career path and acquiring new skills—screen printing, as well as other production and printing techniques.

Sponsor: Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation

3. Healing Comes Home

Teacher: Marla Unruh, Broadwater Elementary
The Healing Library provides an innovative resource to address the consequences of trauma that can negatively impact student performance at school. Through this project, students and families will benefit from take-home kits that address a variety of sources of trauma, like divorce or death of a loved one. The kits will build students' skills in self-management and awareness, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making, which will in turn have a positive impact on learning.

Sponsor: In Memory of Jan Peccia

4. Cyber Cycling

Teacher: Jeanne Morigeau, Capital High School
Studies show that providing short periods of exercise throughout the week benefits students with improved focus and an increase in positive behaviors. Combining the world of virtual reality with access to exercise equipment in the library, funds from HEF will purchase an exercise bike, VR headsets and more for the school library to encourage exercise while reading.

Sponsor: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana

5. Creative Human Flow

Teacher: Katie Knight, PEAK Programs at Helena Middle School and CRA
Two forms of flow intersect in this dynamic project: movement of human populations and psychological immersion in creative process. Humans experience a state of flow when totally engaged and enthused. Students will research human population flow, then engage in creative flow working with guest artists. Learning will extend beyond the classroom through performance and exhibition of the students' work.

Sponsor: Tim Speyer

6. Let's Get Vocational

Teacher: Taylor Hassler, Capital High School
Let's Get Vocational will allow students who receive special education services to build upon the traditional classroom-based vocational education and actually put their skills to use in a student run, multi-academic job skills venture where they will gain numerous and invaluable vocational skills to last throughout high school and beyond!

Sponsor: Ed and Mary Barrett

7. Save Our Trails

Teacher: Jerri Rittel, Project for Alternative Learning
Students will participate in an outdoor classroom, working with Prickly Pear Land Trust, Montana Conservation Corps and Lewis and Clark County Extension Office to discover and learn about our delicate ecosystem and ways to preserve and protect our wet and wild lands for years to come. HEF funds will purchase GPS units, compasses and other equipment to enhance the outdoor experience.

Sponsor: Tim Ballweber

8. No Fear of Shakespeare in Love

Teacher: Roger Scruggs, Helena High School
No Fear Shakespeare editions pair traditional text side-by-side with contemporary language, easing students into the world of Shakespeare's while maintaining interest and creating a deeper understanding of the work. HEF funds will purchase classroom sets of *The Tempest* and *Twelfth Night* for four HHS teachers to share with their classes.

Sponsor: Crowley Fleck, PLLP

9. Bringing the 4th Dimension to Life with a 3D Printer

Teacher: Ryan Swenson, Capital High School
Bringing the 4th Dimension to Life with a 3D Printer will provide math students an opportunity to work with a world-changing technology in a core class. Using a 3D printer students create physical objects through a 3-dimensional design process, utilizing skills learned in honors math.

Sponsor: Northrop Grumman

10. Every Child is an Artist

Teacher: Mike Kepler, Helena Middle School
Did you know that Picasso filled over 500 sketchbooks during his career? *Every Child Is An Artist* will supply middle school art students with quality sketchbooks for use in class to record student progress, personal development, brainstorming concepts, all while mastering district literacy standards.

Sponsor: Mike and Ginger Agee

11. Fact Fluent and Fearless

Teacher: Brenna Stefanik, Jim Darcy Elementary
Students will ditch traditional timings and flash cards and use 21st century methods such as Reflex Math and other games to master multiplication and division facts.

Sponsor: Eric and Ellen Feaver

12. Diversity Drums

Teacher: Tamara Ashley, Jim Darcy Elementary
The *Diversity Drums* project allows students to play instruments while learning about world cultures. HEF funds tubano drums and multiple books about other cultures. Students will learn about and use the new drums, playing rhythms that occur in the stories, or by creating background soundtracks to fit the mood of the stories.

Sponsor: Tempest Technologies



BY THE NUMBERS:

To date, the Helena Education Foundation has awarded
358 grants, totalling more than **\$698,942!**

144 High school grants

58 Middle school grants

13 PAL grants

145 Elementary grants

The Helena Education Foundation Great Ideas Grants program has enhanced the education and experiences of virtually all of Helena's 8,000 students.



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What is the Great Ideas Grant Program?

Great Ideas Grants put money directly into the hands of classroom teachers, empowering educators to turn their ideas for innovative teaching strategies into action.

- ▶ Grants are named after major donors to the Helena Education Foundation.

Thank you to the HEF Fall 2019 grant sponsors:

Mike and Ginger Agee
 Tim Ballweber
 Ed and Mary Barrett
 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana
 Crowley Fleck, PLLP
 Eric and Ellen Feaver

Northrop Grumman
 In Memory of Jan Peccia
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 Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation

Great Ideas Grant sponsor

“Dennis and Phyllis Washington believe that ‘access to a high-quality education is the single most important determinant of success in life.’ The Helena Education Foundation’s singular goal of investing in innovative ideas by teachers to allow students in the Helena school system to be exposed to best-in-class education opportunities is directly aligned with the goals of the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation.”

DENNIS & PHYLLIS
WASHINGTON
FOUNDATION

—Mike Halligan, Executive Director, Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation

Highlights from past grant awards:

- ▶ **Let’s Pause for a Moment of Science:** Students will choose a hands-on STEM kit each day to help develop their critical thinking skills. From building with Legos to learning coding, these versatile kits will allow any student to work independently or collaboratively to solve various problems.
- ▶ **Indian Education through Food and Art:** Indian Education through Food and Art brings music, physical education and library skills teachers together with Mariah Gladstone, a Cherokee and Black-foot educator, to bring a collaborative and interdisciplinary approach to Indian Education for All. Students will learn about food sources and food sovereignty, native culture through music and games and create a topical art project with educators from the Holter Museum of Art.



Would you or your business like to sponsor a Great Ideas Grant or give a gift to the Helena Education Foundation?



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

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