

Jodi Majerus Delaney
jdelaney.mt@gmail.com

"...Jodi is a bright child who has unlimited abilities..."

--Report card comment from Diana Agre, former 1st Grade Teacher, Meadowlark Elementary School, Conrad MT

"...[Jodi] is turning in exceptionally nice art projects. She is well-behaved, creative, and great to have in class..."

--Good Work Slip from Holli Richardson, former Visual Arts Teacher, Utterback Middle School, Conrad, MT

"...Her cultural activity on Russia was totally awesome! She also adds to our class discussions with her positive input!"

--Good Work Slip from Jeff Makelky, former Social Studies Teacher, Conrad High School, Conrad, MT

"What do you get when you mix passion for teaching, love of kids, love of Montessori and subject area, strong self-reflection, a great work ethic, and a little bit of quirkiness? You get Jodi Delaney. Jodi understands that being a "great teacher" is a constant struggle to always improve. Jodi is an intelligent woman who strives to get her students to be deeper thinkers and problem solvers. It is not unusual to see Jodi dressed in period clothing for a history lesson, cooking at the portable kitchen that she built herself using grant funds, or teaching her students proper etiquette at a tea party! Jodi understands that the role of school in a child's life is important. She looks to her students for feedback and strives for academic, social, and behavioral gains for all."

--Susan Sweeney, Great Teachers Worth Talking About Award, Helena Education Foundation 2011

Education History and Certifications

High School Diploma, Conrad High School, Montana 1999

- High School State Champion, Impromptu Speaking, 1998

Bachelor of Arts, Carroll College, Montana 2004

Major: Elementary Education Broadfield

Minors: Visual Arts with an Area of Concentration in Ceramics
History for Secondary Education

Area of Concentration: Middle School Teaching

Selected Awards Received while Attending Carroll College (beyond scholarships)

Phi Alpha Theta Member, International History Honor Society 2003-2004

Education Achievement Award in Elementary Education 2003

Carroll College Talking Saints Forensics Team (beyond tournament-specific awards) 1999-2003

- Dean McSloy Symbols Cup for Representing the Values of Carroll College Forensics 2001
- First Team All Conference 2001, 2002, 2003
- Michael Ingram Short Prep Award Honoring Excellence in Extemporaneous and Impromptu Speaking 2003
- Thomas A. Clinch Memorial Most Inspirational Award 2003
- American Forensics Association-National Individual Events Tournament All American Team (one of 17 competitors in the nation) 2003

Montana Educator License, Folio #75427, Elementary Curriculum Endorsement
Class I Professional Teaching License

Montessori Certifications

Lower Elementary Montessori Certification, North American Montessori Center 2009

Upper Elementary Montessori Certification, North American Montessori Center 2012

Master of Arts, Master of Fine Art, Integrated Art for Education
Creative Pulse Program at the University of Montana 2015

National Board Certification, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards 2017

Maintenance of Certification Renewal 2021

Additional Certifications

Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention's Western Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies 2007

Nonviolent Crisis Intervention, Crisis Prevention Institute 2012

“...Jodi has valuable qualities that she not only presents in the work place, but are also present in every aspect of her life. She is reliable, efficient, organized, creative, and...her enthusiasm was contagious...”

--Patricia M.S. Buerman
Former supervisor
Carroll College
Information/ Technology
Department

“...As [Jodi] captivated her audience’s attention, she proved that she could, in a seemingly effortless manner, combine her intelligence, speaking skills, and wit to produce a long-lasting positive impression...”

--Dr. Lynette Zuroff
Former Director of
Education, Carroll
College

“...She got kids involved that previously hung out on the fringes...”

--Jannice Spotorno
School Counselor and
Recreation Supervisor

Current and Past Employment

Educator, Broadwater Elementary School 2007-present

I currently work as a classroom teacher in a Title I (low-income) school leading a Montessori multi-age classroom of 4th and 5th graders. As a Montessorian, there is an emphasis on student-directed work, peer collaboration, and critical thinking. Students learn to be self-reliant, manage their time and responsibilities, and problem-solve creatively. I also maintain the school’s webpage, am the teacher-liaison for the electronic grade program, create documents/forms such as our Common Core-aligned standards-based report card, am the Building Arts Learning Support Coach, and serve as a master teacher for student teachers and observers, among other activities.

Instructor, Carroll College Adjunct Spring Semesters 2022-present

MA 301 – Teaching Mathematics Content and Methods for Middle Grades

This course is intended to build deep conceptual understanding of mathematics as well as the understanding and implementation of teaching methods for 5th - 8th grade mathematics. Specific topics include the teaching and learning of algebraic reasoning, proportional relationships, and functions. There is a particular focus on current middle grades mathematics curriculum and children’s mathematical thinking at the middle grades level. This course is intended for either elementary education majors or secondary mathematics education majors.

Instructor, Gifted Institute Summers of 2014-2017

I taught several history-focused classes at the camp hosted by Carroll College. Students attended from around the state and ranging in ages from elementary to entering high school. Each day I dressed in character, such as Amelia Earhart and Jackie Kennedy, and facilitated simulation activities to help bring history alive for campers.

Independently Contracted Media Literacy Specialist 2005-2013

I worked with a variety of social marketing and media literacy grants through Youth Connections, Boyd Andrew Community Services, and Helena Public School District. Some of my duties included: curriculum development, leading and training groups of educators, research, technological support for teachers, direct instruction, preparations for the curriculum adoption process within the School District, attending national conferences, graphic design, planning and production of the imMEDIAtE Generation Festival youth media showcase event, and membership on the Social Marketing/Media Literacy Committee of Youth Connections. In 2013 I taught a two-session class on parenting around the media for St. Paul’s United Methodist Church.

PEAK Promoting Enrichment Activities for Kids Program 2003-2008

I worked in a variety of capacities serving elementary and middle school students. For the Afterschool Program, I taught various classes on visual arts and social studies topics, as well as developed and instructed the PEAK Productions series in which students created television shows that aired on HCTV Channel 11. I served in several long-term substitute assignments as a Gifted and Talented instructor. During the Summer Program, I coordinated and instructed classes in visual arts, social studies, technology, and field studies. I also served as video/photographer, related technology support, resident artist, and editor for the summer program brochure.

Recreation Leader, Kay McKenna Youth Foundation Summer Parks Program Summers of 2003, 2004

I organized and facilitated activities for children as part of a free, drop-in summer program that operates at our local parks. I collaborated with the program director to improve orientation and training, including in-service training for Recreation Leaders, and also compiled a book of activities and related materials for future staff.

Program Counselor, Camp Santa Maria Del Monte Summers of 2001, 2002

Camp Santa Maria is a summer camp near Denver, CO run by Catholic Charities for low-income and at-risk youth along with children of all socioeconomic groups and backgrounds. The intent of the program is to show children that there is more to life than drugs, alcohol, and gangs by introducing them to the great outdoors. I volunteered following my employment to reorganize the Counselor Orientation Program and compile updated examples and methodologies of facilitating activities.

"...Jodi Delaney creates a spontaneous, yet structured learning environment..."

--Lindsay Williams
Student Teacher

"...You are the best teacher ever! You are kind and gentle when you want to be and strong and fierce also..."

--Sarah, 4th Grade

"...Jodi's depth of knowledge is on display every day in lively conversation and the period costumes.

Everyone, young and old, loves to guess, "Who are you today?"

--Marla Unruh, Librarian

"...I love learning about history because you can act with history."

--Kyli, 4th Grade
Grandstreet Theater
School Student

"...Jodi is an inspiration not only to her students, but to her colleagues..."

--R. (Annie) Tague
Montessori Teacher

I have also worked as a visual artist, historical walkabout street performer, photographer, videographer, keynote speaker, entertainer for children's activities, swim team coach, lifeguard, youth mentor, tutor of various subjects, archery instructor, in retail and food service, switchboard operator, receptionist, typist, editor, and various volunteer positions in the Helena and Conrad communities.

Selected Affiliations, Memberships, and Activities

National Society and Montana Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution 2024-present

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is a lineage-based membership service organization for women who are directly descended from a person involved in the United States' struggle for independence. A non-profit group, they promote education and patriotism.

Teacher Leader in History 2022-present

Teacher Leader Fellows demonstrate a commitment to history education, interest and experience in teaching Montana history, excellence in the classroom, experience in sharing best practices with their colleagues, and familiarity with the Montana Historical Society's work and educational resources. Fellows participate in a History Summit at the Montana Historical Society, serve as members of the MHS Educator Advisory Board, provide advice and classroom testing of lesson plans, and present at trainings and conferences.

Member of the Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM) 2022-present

ALHFAM serves those involved in living historical farms, agricultural museums and outdoor museums of history and folklife. Since its founding in 1970, ALHFAM has been at the forefront of the growth and professionalization of the use of living history techniques in museum programs. ALHFAM members and member institutions can be found across the United States and Canada and in many other countries.

Writing Committee, Social Studies Content Standards for the State of Montana 2019-2020 OPI Interview can be watched at: <https://youtu.be/YCEIH7NDL48>

I served on the drafting team to develop new content standards for Social Studies. Prior to drafting, we underwent a training course to understand the content standard adoption process and history of standards in Montana. I specifically helped with the elementary standards, and follow-up with editing and revising. The standards were adopted formally in 2020 and implemented in 2021.

After School Language Club 2019

An after-school language club for any area student to practice learning another language, in partnership with Ms. Ciara Ryan. Although research shows that it is best to learn languages when young, our school district does not have any such opportunities until middle and high school. We piloted a club that delivers language instruction on Spanish, using age-appropriate methods for elementary students, with the intention of expanding to additional schools.

Montana Council for Social Studies (MCSS) Member 2018-present **Board Member, Elementary Outreach Coordinator** 2021-present

Montana's chapter of the Council for Social Studies. The mission of the National Council for the Social Studies is to advocate and build capacity for high-quality social studies by providing leadership, services, and support to educators. I am the Elementary Outreach Coordinator, helping support elementary teachers with social studies instruction and best practices.

Nevada City Living History Interpreter, Montana Heritage Commission 2018-present

The outdoor museum in Nevada City houses one of the largest collections of Old West artifacts outside the Smithsonian and has one hundred 1863 to early 1900 buildings. As a volunteer interpreter, I sew and construct historically accurate garments and textiles, cook on a woodfired stove, live in a cabin that predates electricity and running water, operate a general mercantile, wash laundry by hand, and other demonstration activities as I interact with visitors as though we are living in 1864/1865.

Carroll College Teacher Advisory Board Member 2017-present

“...You help people when they need help. You do the right thing when we do the wrong thing, and thank you for everything!”
--Nathan, 4th Grade

“...The anticipation my students feel about moving on to Mrs. Delaney's class is palpable, due to the frequent spotting of historical figures in the halls that look surprisingly like their future teacher...”
--Mary (Beth) Smaka
Montessori Teacher

“...The arts are important because it helps you to learn.”
--Kolton, 4th Grade

“...I would say if anyone can do it you can...”
-- Lisa Cordingley
Executive Director,
Helena Education
Foundation

“...I love learning about math through dancing because I love to move and I also love math.”
--Zach, 4th Grade

A team of educators work to advise Carroll College's Education Department on improving their program, such as discussing the Teacher Education Assessment Process and the impact of changing legal requirements. The team gave feedback on the Montana Council of Education Dean's Draft Employer and Employee Satisfaction Surveys and realigning Carroll's Portfolio to new standards.

SPARK! Teaching Artist, Missoula County Public Schools 2017-2019

SPARK! works in collaboration with artists, classroom teachers, university staff, school administration, and volunteers to ensure that the arts are an essential part of every school day. SPARK! is a national partnership site for the Kennedy Center's Any Given Child Initiative, a growing network of communities working to transform learning and ensure access to the arts for every public school student.

Teacher Leader in the Arts 2015-present

We began as a cohort of sixteen educators from around the state selected to be part of the project by the Montana Arts Council and Office of Public Instruction. After an intensive summer training, we are working to bring improvements in art education to communities across Montana and to support arts integration in their schools.

Irish Cultural Activities: Friends of Irish Studies in the West, Tiernan Irish Dance, and Gaeilge Language Group 2012-present

My family and I participate in multiple groups that share and support Irish culture in Montana. Events include the Irish Days celebration in Virginia City every June, the An Ri Ra festival in Butte each August, and various weekly traditional music, dance, and language practices in Helena. Is breá linn cultúr na hÉireann a roinnt (We love sharing Irish culture).

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (Montana Behavioral Initiative) Team 2011-2021

A team of school staff that has overhauled our school climate and continues to seek additional ways to improve. Our school achieved 'Platinum' status for implementing a system-wide approach to both behavior and academic development. Staff members attended MBI training during the summer conferences and we met regularly throughout the school year.

**Montana Council for History and Civics Education Member 2010-2021;
Board Member 2016-2021**

A non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of history and civics education in the state of Montana. This includes supporting history curriculum through evaluating state standards, curriculum and assessment; promoting quality pre-service preparation for history teachers; and working to strengthen the content of K-12 history and civics education in Montana schools. In 2021, we dissolved this organization and merged with the Montana Council for Social Studies (MCSS).

Hot Yoga Helena Member 2011-present

Every good teacher is also a student. Through the practice of yoga, I am constantly reminded how it feels to be on the receiving end of instruction. Through practice, yogis experience increased flexibility, strength, improved posture and better concentration.

Youth Connections Coalition Member 2005-2013

A diverse group of community members who work to make Helena a healthy and supportive place for kids and families. We focus on preventing and reducing substance abuse and violence, while enhancing social, emotional and mental health supports for Helena's youth. We are building a better Helena by providing valuable, evidence-based programs, services, and activities to help youth and families thrive.

Biographies of the Nation Teaching American History Program Participant 2010-2013

Biography is used as the lens to teach history through the lives of the famous and not so famous. We wrote model Instruction Plans based on best practices of history education, held book discussion groups, and attended a colloquium series to learn from historians, master teachers, and collaborate with fellow participants.

Friends of Tango Helena (FroTH) 2010-2013

An enthusiastic non-profit organization that shares a passion for Argentine tango. Through various classes, workshops, the monthly milongas (dances), and practicas (practice sessions), we enjoy exploring this creative and improvisational dance style. I

"I wanted you to know, yesterday I interviewed a first year... teacher entering the Pulse. . .and how did she learn about the Pulse? She came to an MEA session we held for the Pulse at Sentinel HS in Missoula and saw you make a dramatic entrance dressed in a homemade colonial dress. Even though this was maybe 6 years ago or so, she described it like it was yesterday. She was a sophomore undergrad at the time but she always remembered the Pulse because you represented the creative voice of a teacher. I loved hearing this! She described the experience in vivid detail. Thanks for being such an inspiration."

***--Karen Kaufmann,
Artistic Director,
CoMotion Dance Project
/ Professor of Dance /
Director of the Creative
Pulse Program at the
University of Montana
(Retired)***

have danced at public demonstrations, such as outdoor events like the farmer's market, and at the Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Fair in 2011.

K-5 Fine and Performance Arts Steering Committee Member 2009-2012

A District-wide committee of elementary teachers wanting to improve the quality of art instruction in our schools, including drafting a scope-and-sequence document and planning professional development in the event that funding could be secured. This committee went on hiatus in 2012.

Montana Office of Public Instruction Media Literacy Consultant 2011-2012

The final development team for a statewide media literacy curriculum on social norming for dissemination through regional trainers. I was invited by MT OPI to serve as the expert on elementary media literacy education, along with two other master teachers who were involved in my previous media literacy curriculum projects representing middle and high school. We served as consultants to assess and critique the curriculum being developed for statewide use.

Social Media

Blogs:

- <http://timelinecostumes.blogspot.com/> Additional biographical information on the collection of women and the clothing I use to represent them. I spend about one out of every four school days dressed in historic costume ranging from the mid-1600s up to the present and am constantly adding more historic figures.
- <http://becominghistory.blogspot.com/> Information and support for classroom teachers focusing on using first person historical interpretation and the Becoming History Project.
- <http://yearlongdress.blogspot.com/> Recording my Field Project to create an 1890s evening gown, including era-appropriate undergarments and construction techniques.

Awards and Recognition

Distinguished Educator, Helena Education Foundation's Celebration of Excellence, Nominated by former students Lynsey Read 2023, Hannah Dreesbach 2018

A Celebration of Excellence honors Distinguished Scholars and Achievers, as well as the Distinguished Educators who join students at the gala. Each student identifies the educator who has had the most positive impact on his or her life.

Montana Statehood Centennial Bell Award sponsored by the Montana Television Network, Montana History Foundation, Sons and Daughters of Montana Pioneers 2017

Honoring the Montana History Teacher of the Year at the fourth- through sixth-grade level.

Collaborative Community Prize sponsored by the Holter Museum of Art, Youth Electrum Show 2016

For the classroom whose collaborative artwork best displays our community's creativity in action.

History Teacher of the Year for Montana sponsored by the Guilder Lehrman Institute of American History 2013

Recognizing outstanding K-12 American history teachers across the country (elementary year).

Great Teachers Worth Talking About Award sponsored by the Helena Education Foundation 2011

For exceptional commitment to students, implementing creative and innovative teaching practices.

Class Act Award sponsored by Beartooth NBC and Sylvan Learning Center 2009

In recognition for excellence in education and community service.

Professional Presentations and Performances

Guest Speaker, Choctaw and Irish History, Helena Indian Alliance Family Night

2024, 2025 Co-Presented an overview of the connection between Ireland and the Choctaw tribe, along with connections with Indigenous Montanans.

“... and then I showed up to your workshop this morning... Watching you deliver a message to our group resonated [with] how I raised my son when I stayed at home with him for two years as I was becoming a teacher...and it showed solutions to my conflicts with the traditional system of educating students which causes great internal conflict. I guess what you could say is that your presentation may have singlehandedly retained a teacher showing him that there is a method that lines up with how he thinks kids need/should learn...”

**--Cody M.
Conference Sectional
Participant**

Guest Speaker, University of Montana Western, Dillon

2022 Language Arts and Social Studies Methods (K-8): Pre-service teachers traveled to Helena for a day-long seminar

Historical Actor, EXP Journeys event for the Trilogy Real Estate Group (Chicago) on location at the Flying D Ranch, MT

2021 Historical interpretation during an immersive corporate team-building event

Background Actor, Discovery Channel’s ‘Expedition X’ on location in Nevada City, MT

2020 Historical reenactment of George Ives’ hanging; ‘Curse of the Old West Outlaw’ Season 2, Episode 1 Released November 11, 2020

MFPE Convention (Montana Statewide Teachers’ Convention; previously MEA-MFT)

2013, 2017, 2018, 2021 ‘Bringing History Alive for Children’

2016 ‘Bringing History Alive for Children’, ‘Becoming History’, ‘Montessori for All’, and a session about the Creative Pulse Graduate Program (University of Montana)

2015 ‘Bringing History Alive for Children’, ‘Becoming History’, and ‘Montessori for All’

2014 ‘Bringing History Alive for Children’ and ‘Becoming History: First Person Historical Interpretations’

2010 Co-presented a session on Media Literacy

Guest Speaker, Carroll College

2019 Creative Communication: Arts Integration Overview

2017 Montessori Method: History of Montessori as Dr. Maria Montessori

2016 Creative Communication: First Person Historical Interpretation as Rachel Carson

Guest Speaker, Montana Historical Society Indian Education for All Online Series

2021 Presented part of a new unit piloted for MHS

Guest Speaker, Helena College

2019 Music Education Methods: Arts Integration overview

Indian Education for All Best Practices Conference, MT OPI

2023 ‘Why is there a Shamrock on the Little Shell Flag?’ Presentation on the connections between Irish and Indigenous Montanans.

2021 Co-presented a session on the 7 Essential Understandings of Montana Indians with Montana Historical Society’s Education and Outreach Historian, Martha Kohl

2018 Presentation on implementing the new Montana Arts Standards

Alpha Delta Kappa, International Honorary Organization for Women Educators

2018 Presentation on Social Studies and Arts Integration at a monthly meeting

OPI Trending Teacher Topics Webinar: Standards-based Grading and Reporting

2018 A featured panel member during a professional development webinar

Becoming History, Helena Civic Television (HCTV)

2017 Interview and overview of first person historical interpretation filmed and edited by Jeannie Warden for HCTV, local cable-access and on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6kmks3u8WEc&t=4s>

Teacher Leaders in the Arts Institute, Sponsored by the Montana Arts Council and Montana Office of Public Instruction

2016 Served as a faculty member and presenter on Arts Learning and Integration

Montana History Conference, Montana Historical Society

2016 Educator’s Pre-Conference session: Montana Historical Society Trunks and Hands-on Learning. Main Conference session: ‘Under the Strong Hands of Women’ co-presenter, acting in character as ‘Copper King’ Marcus Daly’s wife, Margaret Daly at the Daly Mansion.

Montana Office of Public Instruction Title I Conference

2015 ‘Becoming History: First Person Historical Interpretation’

Para Institute (for Para-Educators in the Helena School District)

2014 Two sessions on an introduction to using Microsoft Office Suite

2013 Two sessions on an introduction to using Apple MacBooks

Great Conversations, Helena Education Foundation

“...I'm so glad Jodi has participated with me on the Teach American History project...she shares her wisdom and excitement...”
--Paula Tavenner
5th Grade Teacher
Biographies of the Nation, Teach American History Participant

“...Jodi quite literally applies every fiber of her being to making history come alive for her students... her young charges get a glimpse at what used to be...”
--Karen Mikota,
Retired Teacher

“...I love learning about realistic drawings because...it is a fun and wonderful way to learn about the science and math behind art...”
--Sapphire, 5th Grade

“...You are a wonderful artiste—you draw more than stick figures!”
--Jennifer Skogley
Music Educator

2014 Table Leader, hosting a lively conversation on ‘Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner?’ discussing Montana as a territory, women’s right to vote, and the interesting people who left their mark on our state.

Selected Grants Successful grant proposals on which I was a lead writer:

“Colonial Education Trunk” 2024 Spring Helen Pouch Memorial Fund Classroom Grant, 2024 \$500.00

It is challenging for young learners to understand past events that seem so removed and abstract, especially if the events happened far away. Through the use of a trunk designed especially for elementary children, students will create understandings of the past based on objects they can investigate with all of their senses. The trunk is available for educators to borrow.

“130 Years of Service” Helena Education Foundation, In Memory of Mark Sweeney, 2022 \$1,598.15

Our school celebrated 130 years of service in the Helena community in 2023. To mark this very special occasion, students conducted historical research, gathered photos and memories from past graduates, put together a professional display of their research, and created an outdoor mural. A lot has changed since 1893!

“Remember the Ladies” Helena Education Foundation, Dale Tig Vernon 2022 \$698.00

Biographies were purchased to learn about women in US history while improving reading comprehension. Picture books and novels are an excellent resource for building reading skills, and we’ll be doing double duty to simultaneously learn about social, political, and scientific issues of the past and present. I dress and act in character as historical figures throughout the school year, and each book connects to one of those ladies.

“Ready to Read, but We Need More Books!” Donors Choose, 2021 \$301.00

Books can take you to places near and far, past and present, real and imaginary, but our collection needed more diversity and inclusion. The books provided by this grant include stories from around the globe and are about people (and even chickens!) with differing abilities. Representation matters, and this grant will help further develop students’ sense of empathy and understanding.

“Living Among the Masters” Helena Education Foundation, Tim Speyer 2017 \$1,000.00

Broadwater School’s hallways have been transformed into a beautifully curated art museum through the addition of framed prints of artistic merit and renown. The students explore the art pieces in their classrooms using high-resolution scanned images with coordinating activities, building a personal connection to the artworks over many years.

“Wiggly Learners” Karen Cox Memorial Grant 2017 \$500.00

'Hokki' stools are specifically designed to help students 'keep moving, while sitting still'. The ergonomically designed stools are beneficial for a variety of students, but are not widely available for children that don't have it specifically written as an accommodation. These stools joined our flexible seating system to help meet the needs of students as they need workspaces that work for them.

“Sewing!” KXLH and First Interstate Bank One Class at a Time 2016 \$250.00

Sewing is a wonderful practical life activity in our Montessori curriculum. Not only is it great for developing skills such as fine-motor coordination, concentration, and a concern for safety, but many sewing projects have added value as “real work” projects that improve self-confidence. Boys as well as girls enjoy these activities, and it provides opportunities to develop perseverance and dedication in a video game world.

“Perceptive Paleontologists” Donors Choose 2016 \$417.00

Students love dinosaurs, and this grant provided actual, real fossils, child-friendly scientifically accurate booklets, and miniatures of specific species. These materials are used in a variety of Montessori lessons, covering everything from grammar lessons that accompany the miniature environment, to reading comprehension, and, of course, scientific concepts.

"...I loved learning about how sound works by opening up the piano because it inspired me and interested me. I learned some new things and had a lot of fun doing it."

--Asher, 5th Grade

"Jodi, thank you! What a wonderful day we had with you—it was a very meaningful day! Thank you, too, for all the resources you provided... I very much hope that my future students will be able to learn from you, too!"

- Estee Aiken, Ed.D. Chair and Professor Division of Education University of Montana Western

"Seriously, you captured so many of the main points shared by other teachers. With your blessing, I would like to use your interview as my main point of view in my script."

- Emily Turner Hankins, Educator and Consultant

"Creating a Collaborative Community" Helena Education Foundation, Mediterranean Grill 2016 \$1,240.00

Broadwater School families created a large-scale outdoor art installation highlighting all the members of our community, both child and adult, who work together to support our school. This project is experiential, creating a sense of belonging and fostering a positive relationship between school and community.

"Do you Hear what I Hear?" Helena Education Foundation, Allegiance Benefit Plan Management 2014 \$2,194.00

In collaboration with our music teacher, Ms. Skogley, students don't just hear music, but have it in the palms of their hands through the use of technology—iPads and AppleTV systems. Interactive aural and basic theory skills, along with activities that teach musical concepts and the science of hearing, improve student learning and appreciation of music.

"Juggling Materials!" Donors Choose 2014 \$394.00

Students learn how to learn and about the fascinating and mysterious brain that makes it all possible. Juggling is an activity that requires both brain and brawn. It is an integration of multiple skill sets and a challenge both physically and mentally. Through this hands-on example, students will learn more about their own learning styles, the brain-body connection, and acquire a talent that is always handy to know.

"Quiet the Chaos" Donors Choose 2014 \$596.00

Learning can be a loud business. For students who are sensitive to sound, it can be difficult to focus and stay on task. Controlling the noise in our classroom is vital to helping all students be successful. Students use noise-cancelling earmuffs to help limit noise distractions and a class set of headphones for the increasing number of technological tasks that require audio.

"Biography Bistro" Helena Education Foundation, Sue Clarke Memorial 2013 \$606.00

We purchased dishes, a cash box, linens, a grill, and other supplies to augment our Biography Bistro culminating event. Every year, students create a fully functioning restaurant and act in full costume as historic individuals they have exhaustively researched.

"It's Electrifying!" Montana AGATE Gifted and Talented 2013 \$347.31

Students understand the historic and technological revolution of electrification through the case study of telegraphy. By building electrical circuits, a telegraph system, and sending/receiving their own messages, students experience this transformation in communication and better understand how electricity works.

"Family Resource Center" Helena Education Foundation, First Interstate Bank 2012 \$1,690.00

Materials to supply our Family Resource Center including reliable, easily transportable internet and technology access for our families, as well as a custom hand-painted sign I built to help families locate the Center.

"Wii are Kinected" Helena Education Foundation, D.A. Davidson 2012 \$718.00

Students use familiar living room technology in the school setting to encourage a healthy lifestyle and academic achievement while 'exergaming' with Nintendo Wii and Xbox Kinect.

"The Poor City on the Richest Hill" KXLH and First Interstate Bank One Class at a Time 2011 \$250.00

In collaboration with our librarian, Ms. Unruh, students researched life during the copper mining heyday in Butte, America. We created a 16-square-foot bi-level model inspired by the town complete with head frame, mine shafts, homes, businesses, and a railroad, which was displayed at Mosaic Architecture and is now on permanent display in our school library.

"Step Up to Healthy Living" Helena Education Foundation, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana 2010 \$957.00

Using a class set of accurate, user-friendly pedometers, students scientifically gather, track and record data, observe physical activity habits, critically evaluate healthy lifestyle behaviors, apply math skills, and translate their steps into geography activities.

“...I can't even begin to tell you how much you've affected my life. It's because of you that I actually enjoy school. It's because of you that I will become the President of the United States of America. It's because of you that I reach for the stars and strive to be the very best in everything that I do. And for that I'm extremely grateful. I just want to thank you for all that you have done for me...”

--Adam,
former student and
future President of the
United States of America

“...All of your students, past, present and future are blessed to have you as their teacher.”

--Norma Ashby, inductee
Montana Broadcaster's
Hall of Fame and
Montana Cowboy Hall of
Fame

“Kinanâskomitin (thank you) for presenting for our HIA Family Night.”

--Helena Indian Alliance

“Kid's Kitchen” Helena Education Foundation, Sodexo 2009 \$850.00

I built a mobile kitchen to learn about cultural heritage and diversity through food preparation, healthy nutrition, and build self-confidence by developing practical life skills.

“The Five Great Lessons” Helena Education Foundation, Peccia and Associates 2009 \$2,065.00

The 'Five Great Lessons' of Montessori form the base for all content taught throughout the year. The materials purchased offer students hands-on opportunities to learn everything from astronomy and geology to world cultures, geometry, zoology and more.

“Architecture!” KXLH and First Interstate Bank One Class at a Time 2008 \$250.00

Students researched architecture throughout the year and created large-scale façades out of oversized foam core board assembled in layers to form a 3D effect as a culminating activity. Students created a book published through Apple, which is available in our school library.

I have also been involved with numerous other grants as a proposal editor, project coordinator, and participant.

Traditional Media Coverage

Television:

- Heath, Madelyn. “Historical Society hosts live-action Clue at the Original Governor's Mansion.” *TVH.com*, Montana Television Network, 13 January 2025, <https://www.ktvh.com/news/historical-society-hosts-live-action-clue-at-the-original-governors-mansion>
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**"Congratulations!
Your grant
application
received 1st
place for the
State! We are
proud of you and
appreciate all
you do for our
schools and for
Montana
students."**

--Gale Kramlick President
of the Oro Fino Chapter
of the Daughters of the
American Revolution

**"You are missing
link [in our
project], my
dear. The
historian
extravaganza
that you are."**

-- Marisa Diaz Waian,
Reeders Alley,
Executive Director of
Merlin CCC

**"Side note, you
had all of us
captivated with
the story of
Jack on
Thursday!! I
couldn't believe
the kiddos
didn't even
budge when
the bell rang."**

--Jamie, Parent

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