

Back to school with books and backpacks

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Sarasota County libraries and the Sarasota Housing Authority held a “Back to School Bash” Wednesday at the Learning Center in Sarasota, offering books, backpacks and school supplies to families. Everyone who showed up also had the opportunity to register for library cards. Wednesday’s event was part of the national Book-Rich Environment campaign, during which the two organizations aimed to distribute 2,500 free books over the summer to children, many of whom live in public housing communities. Summer reading programs also were offered to children in the area as part of the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. Students return to school in Sarasota County on Monday; in Manatee County, today is the first day of school.

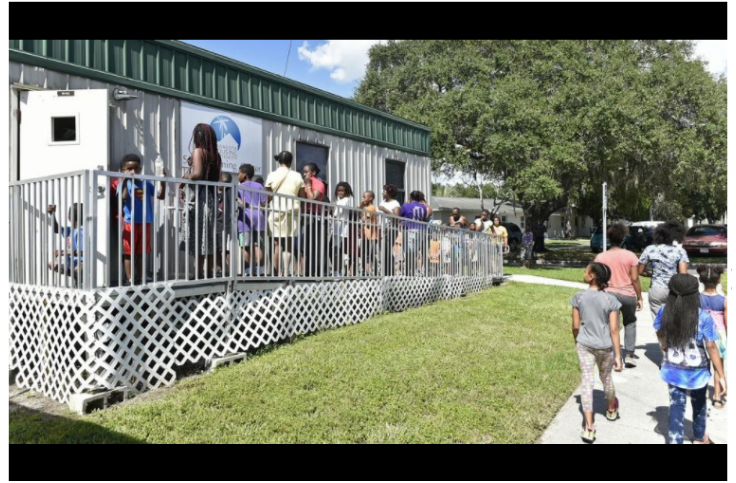


Terrell Maybell, 7, is entering the second grade at Wilkinson Elementary School on Monday. The Sarasota Housing Authority in partnership with the Sarasota County Libraries, wrapped up its last event of the summer with a “Back to School Bash” at the Learning Center on Orange Avenue in Sarasota.



▲ HIDE CAPTION

Kids pick up their backpacks and books at the Learning Center.



▲ HIDE CAPTION

Children and their families attend the “Back to School Bash” on Wednesday at the Learning Center, 1912 N. Orange Ave.



▲ HIDE CAPTION

Marion Williams, 5, who will be entering kindergarten at Emma E. Booker Elementary School, picked out a couple of books Wednesday during a “Back to School Bash.” More than 150 children received books, backpacks and school supplies. [HERALD-TRIBUNE STAFF PHOTOS / THOMAS BENDER]



▲ HIDE CAPTION

Z'myah Williams, 5, starts kindergarten on Monday at Alta Vista Elementary School.