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Indian River County youngsters head back to class

By Kelly Tyko

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INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — Set the alarm clocks and sharpen those new pencils.

A new school year starts Monday for Indian River County public school students and it'll be opening day for the county's fourth middle school and first green school.

Storm Grove Middle School opens its \$37.6 million campus in Vero Beach. The school is considered a "green" campus because it uses windows to provide natural light in classrooms and energy efficiency.

And a brand-new school without walls and doors also will open.

Starting with the new school year, all Florida school districts are required to offer virtual schools because of a 2008 law created to give parents more choice over how their children are educated. The Indian River virtual school is being run by virtual school providers Florida Virtual School and Florida Connections Academy.

For students, teachers and school staff not ready to give up the lazy days of summer, just two weeks away is Sept. 7 — the Labor Day holiday — giving all a three-day weekend.

The last day of the school year for Indian River County public schools is June 9 — 180 school days away.

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