

New Horizons opens new learning pavilion for mentor program

By Tony Mixon

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Mentors and mentees enjoy a shaded table during a ribbon-cutting Tuesday at New Horizons Learning Center. [PATTI BLAKE/ THE NEWS HERALD]

PANAMA CITY — Mentors, mentees, faculty and other community members gathered at New Horizons Learning Center Tuesday afternoon to open up the new learning pavilion.

The pavilion will provide much-needed shade for New Horizon's mentor program, started 21 years ago by Margaret Tidmore, a former school district employee.

She was able to secure a \$15,000 grant from the St. Joe Company to fund the pavilion.

"I was really pleased they responded so quickly," said Tidmore. "I think after the storm (2018's debastating Hurricane Michael), people listen a lot more."

The mentor program allows for mentors and their mentees to spend time with one another outside. The shade will greatly help with Florida's hot and sunny weather.

School Advisory Council Chairman Brian Baber, who was at the ribbon-cutting ceremony, said he gives Tidmore a lot of credit for the pavilion.

"She worked in Bay District Schools for 36 years and started this mentor program the year after she retired," Baber said.

The pavilion will be open not just to mentor program participants, but to other students at the school.

"Students receive a reward by getting a chance to go outside and relax or play basketball," Tidmore said.



Brian Baber stands with New Horizons Learning Center Mentor Coordinator/Parent Liaison Margaret Tidmore and Laura Dever while cutting a ribbon Tuesday at New Horizons Learning Center. The school held a ribbon-cutting for the opening of the new learning pavilion. The school plans to use the shaded area for mentors to spend time with their mentees. [PATTI BLAKE/THE NEWS HERALD]



Students and staff enjoy a new shaded pavilion at New Horizons Learning Center. [PATTI BLAKE/THE NEWS HERALD]