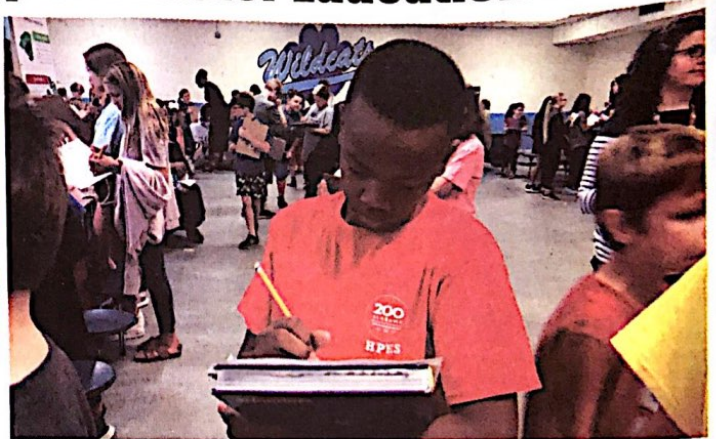
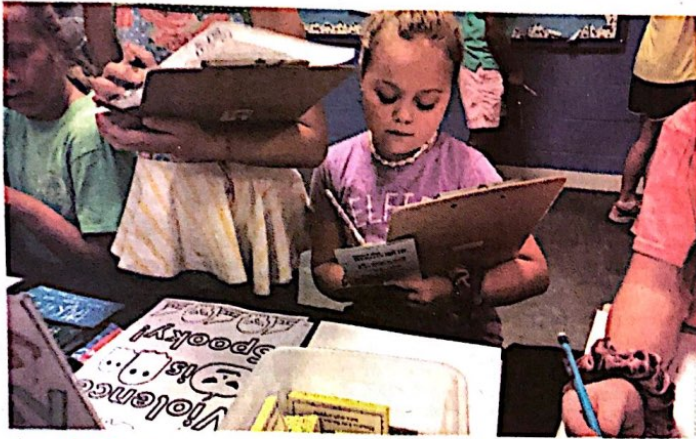


Two TCSS Schools Receive Top Character Education Honor



By Aaron Bonner
Gazette Staff

Two Tuscaloosa County schools were awarded a top character education honor.

Both Huntington Place Elementary School and Walker Elementary School were chosen as part of Character.org's 2020 State Schools of Character. The

two schools, along with 79 others across the United States, were named by the organization as schools with "a dedicated focus on character development."

"These schools, along with others in our system, are working to develop not just the academic aspects of a student, but also social and emotional development that is also so important," said Terri Brewer, Tuscaloosa County School

System's director of public relations.

Character.org is a non-profit organization from Washington D.C. that works directly with schools and local communities to help build stronger relationships between members. Partnering with Samford University's Hope Institute, both Huntington Place Elementary School and Walker Elementary School use character educational programs to help stu-

dents learn and live by the school's core values.

Students follow the Wildcat Way at Huntington Place Elementary School, learning values such as honesty, compassion and respect. At Walker Elementary School, students follow the RAMS Way, learning to be motivated and accountable for their actions.

"At both schools, these core values

are everyday language and they are woven into all aspects of a student's learning," Brewer said.

She said that while Huntington Place and Walker are just two schools within the district's character education programs, the Tuscaloosa County School Board congratulates faculty, staff and students for "their commitment to such important values."