Kenny Howell

Managing Editor

The State of Tennessee recently named 169 schools as Reward Schools, which means they were the top five percent in either annual growth or academic achievement.

Schools got the honor for either growth or achievement, but Lakeview Elementary received it in both. Only 16 schools in the state at all grade levels achieved that honor.

“With everything that is on their shoulders, they are making it work,” said Lakeview Principal Tracey Burge about her teachers and staff.

Lakeview was the only school in Wilson County to receive the Reward School status in both categories. W.A. Wright Elementary, Mt. Juliet High School and Wilson Central High School achieved it in Progress. Stoner Creek Elementary received the honor in performance.

“Everybody goes above and beyond,” said fifth grade Math and Science teacher Stephanie Allen. She said that the staff communicated with each other just about every day during the summer, and it wasn’t just the same grade level. Allen said all teachers work together.

“We work really well as a team,” said second grade teacher Kathy White. She said they will

often meet with the third grade teachers to see what their expectations are, so the second grade teachers will have them ready for the next grade.

Second grade teacher Kari Ferrell said that expectations are always high at Lakeview because of its reputation as a top notch school, so the teachers push themselves to keep Lakeview a school people seek out.

Fourth grade math teacher Megan Hamilton said that it's more than just the teachers.

"We have great kids and great parents," said Hamilton.

Hamilton said the honor has lifted the spirits of the teachers in the school, and they are working just as hard to receive the honor again.