

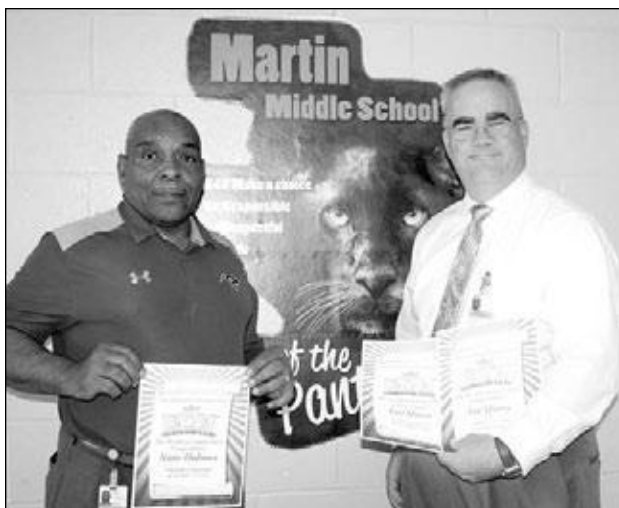
Best School: Martin Middle School

Best Teacher: Lee Ussery, Best Principal: Nathaniel Holmes, Best Coach: Lee Ussery

Martin Middle School students may not remember everything spoken by Mr. Nathaniel Holmes, but they will remember his caring voice each time he said, "The choice is yours." Mr. Holmes not only has served proudly and wholeheartedly as principal for 29 years, but has been involved in education for almost 43 years. Years that allowed him to speak words that opened the eyes of many students from different economical, religious and ethnic backgrounds to what they could be and what they could do, in a way they never thought possible. This is a man whose educational career not only spanned over the years, but has spanned through the lives of so many students from all walks of

life. He touched lives daily and warmed the spirits of everyone he came into contact with.

And although this is his third time being chosen as Best Principal in Weakley County in the Reader's Choice Awards, he knows that behind every hard-working principal is an awesome group of educators who possess the same goal – aspiring to inspire students to being their very best academically and socially. He is indeed surrounded by educators who not only teach, but are committed to taking the hands of their students and leading them to success. Teachers, who strive to lead by example and not just by word alone. His serving as principal for Weakley County has



been very rewarding and has given him the opportunity to accomplish working with many people in the community and surrounding area. He is a man who doesn't meet a stranger, but welcomes the

opportunity to better the lives of those he meet. And during the many years he served as a leader in this community, he has done so by ensuring an open door policy that allowed him to be fair, open-

minded and transparent.

Mr. Holmes says his biggest accomplishment is his family. A close, loving family who has supported him in his dreams and loved him dearly through all of his hard work. It has been because of all of the above, along with his faith in God and his love for all mankind that he has been blessed with success as a principal.

Mr. Holmes always knew that his job in life would be to be of service to all mankind, and he knew in his life the choice would be his.

Lee Ussery joined the Martin Middle School faculty after spending six years with Union City schools. He spent the bulk of his time teaching reading and language arts, mostly in the 6th and

7th grades. He transitioned to teaching after working as a social worker and in the health care field.

He credits his role as a volunteer softball coach for exposing him to his career path of education. Mr. Ussery has coached rec league, school, and travel softball teams for more than 15 years. Since he joined the faculty of Martin Middle, he has completed two years as the MMS Softball Coach, and in his first year as the coach of Westview Softball.

He is married to Stacey Ussery, a math consultant with the Northwest Core Office. They have one daughter, Becca, who is a junior at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, majoring in Biology.

Martin Middle School

- 🐾 **B4U Make a choice.**
- 🐾 **Be Responsible**
- 🐾 **Be Respectful**
- 🐾 **Be Safe**
- 🐾 **Be Kind**

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Making A Difference Molding Minds and Character Stepping Towards Success



**Empowering today's learners
to become tomorrow's leaders.**

**Voted Weakley County's
Best Teacher and Coach**

Lee Ussery

**Voted Weakley County's Best Principal
Nathaniel Holmes**