

For several years, we did not have the DARE program, and we're thrilled that it has been implemented back in the school. We really hope it has an impact on their lives," principal Diana Little said in her welcoming address.

During Tuesday's program, the winners of the school's DARE essay competition read their submissions to their cheering classmates.

School

relationships between the Central Office and the communities. When the Carbon Hill School was being built, "I didn't see a whole lot of — how shall I put this? — asking the people of Carbon Hill a lot of questions about this school."

She said an architect was hired at a cost of \$417,000 to draw the designs of the school, "and then we rushed to get into the school. There are a lot of things in that school that are not student friendly. The teachers complain to me about the classrooms being smaller than the trailers were — and not enough bathrooms.

"There are no outlets in the computer lab over on the elementary side, and how in the world can you teach computer without an electrical outlet. I haven't figured that out yet," she said.

The first day the school was open, Beaty, a former chemistry teacher, complimented Gail Tucker on the chemistry lab — to which Tucker responded, "There's no equipment in it."

"Y'all, we can't built elaborate buildings just for show," Beaty said. "The buildings have to be practical and they have to be child and teacher friendly. We are there to educate children and not for a beautiful building."

She emphasized that there was no choice for Carbon Hill but to build that school because of a tornado and fire destroying the previous schools. However, she added, "The people should have been consulted. The teachers should have been consulted about the needs in their classrooms.

"The people of the community should have been consulted more so about what they thought — even down to the blue roof. That blew my mind that the people of Carbon Hill wanted a blue roof instead of a green roof. I don't see why that's important — I mean, I don't see why the blue roof should not be on the

DARE graduates at Carbon Hill Elementary School

All the students later received certificates for completing the program, but Sanford said they were not the only ones benefitting from DARE.

"It's a learning experience both ways. They already knew much more before I got here than I would want them

to know, and it's good for us to know what's going on with the kids," Sanford said.

Sanford, who formerly directed school traffic at Curry, says when it comes to drug use, parents need to be just as honest as they would want their kids to be.

"I really try to stress to

them to talk to their parents and I tell the parents, that come out to things like this, that they need to talk to their kids about mistakes they may have made in the past. Nobody is a saint, and the kids need to know that they can go to their parents if they need to," Sanford said.

From A1

building. That's not a point of battle. That's not a point of battle to choose. You do what the people of the community want, and I see it that way all around the county. We have to work together to make our schools prosper."

Blue and white are the school colors for Carbon Hill.

Beaty said her parents instilled her with a good work ethic and pointed out there are many good Democratic Christians in the county.

"Other people try to take the Christian out of the Democratic Party. They try to relate the two," she said. "But it's not that way around here. We all know that."

She concluded her talk by saying she wanted to give "equal learning opportunities" to the children of the county.

For his part, Sanford said Tuesday that he stood behind the school, saying visitors always praise the facility when they see it. He said a group from Jasper in town for a tournament "were absolutely amazed at the school and at its quality.

"That is one of the finest school buildings in the state of Alabama," he said. "The people in the other communities in the county would give their eye teeth to have a facility like that."

The classrooms are regulation size and were approved by the architect and the state building committee in charge of reviewing the plans.

Sanford said the computer lab was moved and that it was placed under a change order.

"I'm not happy the computer lab is not open yet," he said, although he added it should be open by the end of next month, with all new, state-of-the-art computers installed.

As for the chemistry lab, Sanford, who also taught chemistry, quoted Tucker as saying recently, "I love the lab." He said he asked her about supplies, and she

said she was short of some "consumable" supplies, but she and Sanford agreed that it takes years to build up the equipment and supplies of a chemistry lab.

Sanford said the faculty and administration were approached on what they needed at the school, and administrators were given plans to get feedback from the community. Sanford said he hoped they did, but added if anything, they probably obtained feedback from other educators at the school.

"I did ask for input on the roof," he said, saying he sent the plans to the principals and expected them to get input.

"They all said they wanted a green roof," Sanford said.

He added that on many aspects, including bleachers and lockers, he would give local school officials Web sites to look at and choose which items they wanted.

"That school was not built in isolation," Sanford said. "It's a shame someone has to go up there and tear down something she probably wouldn't have built in the first place."

Sanford recalled when the tornado destroyed the elementary school, the insurance company with policies for the school said the school could be repaired at its current site and with what was left of the building.

"My feeling was that school had a tornado go right through the middle of it. I didn't feel it would ever be safe to put kids back in it," Sanford said, adding a structural engineer came to the same conclusion.

Sanford said the school system eventually hired a lawyer to get a better settlement. When the high school burned, he said he gained input first from local school administrators before the final decision was made to combine the two schools.

Candidates

says special interests have too much influence in the Capitol. He raised most of his money in small contributions from individuals, many of whom live outside Alabama.

"That shows the growing strength of our grassroots campaign," he said.

Riley raised most of his money inside Alabama from a combination of individuals and PACs.

Josh Blades, Riley's cam-

Baxley said she is pleased with her fundraising since she has never held an office that controls state grants or building projects.

"The contributions to me are not out of a debt of gratitude for what I've delivered from that office, unlike Riley and Siegelman," she said.

Siegelman said he's not worried about trailing in fundraising because he's already known across the state and because polls show him running well in the

Moore raised \$310,578 in 2005, Baxley tallied \$1.2 million last year, and Siegelman posted \$105,065.

For the new reporting period, Riley's biggest contributions included: \$20,000 each from Eddie Canady of Cullman, AmSouth Bank's political action committee, and a trucking industry PAC, and \$10,000 each from Donald M. Leeburn III of Columbus, Ga., Haley N. Caldwell of Warrior, Shelby M. Caldwell of Tuscaloosa,

Miss.; and \$5,000 each from Jerald Brooks of Birmingham, Tim James of Greenville, and Pete Hanna of Fairfield.

He also listed a \$500,000 loan from two of his campaign organizers, Ron Creel and George Hundley.

Baxley's contributions included \$42,450 from PACs run by Montgomery lobbyist Clark Richardson and \$26,000 from the Birmingham law firm headed by her ex-husband, former Lt. Gov.

From A1