

Westside shows its Best side

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They raised the roof at Westside Elementary School on Thursday with music, dancing and cheers for the B grade the school earned from the state over the summer. State officials had predicted the Daytona Beach school -- where most students are minorities and from low-income families -- would get only an F because of the increased difficulty of last spring's Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test. Improved math scores carried Westside to the higher grade, said Principal Judi Winch, and helped it capture the third-highest ranking in Florida among more than 1,800 elementary schools for the percentage of students who showed at least a year's worth of improvement in math. Parents, teachers and students celebrated Thursday night with a cookout and outdoor games. Winch and Assistant Principal Tucker Harris even led a dance from the school roof.