



## Technology Helps Lauderdale County Facilitators Promote Higher Levels of Learning

**Name:**

Lauderdale County Schools

**Internet:**

[www.lced.net](http://www.lced.net)

**Technology Tools:**

Free laptops to all middle school-aged children in the county

**Location:**

Ripley/Lauderdale County

**Leadership:**

Shawn Kimble, Technology Coordinator

**Innovative Insight:** *“The students were excited. They really took the program and ran with it. They were able to do things on the computer without training. They’re having fun and don’t even realize they’re learning.”*

**The Impact of Broadband:**

*It really makes all the difference in the world. Before we had only books and everything remained in this classroom. Now kids can see animals on live cams. It really promotes high order thinking. This program has opened the whole world to us.”*

**Ripley, TN** - Middle school kids in Lauderdale County have technology at their fingertips, courtesy of a program that provides each 6th, 7th and 8th grader in the county with their own personal laptop. The program got its start five years ago when the county’s superintendent attended a conference that discussed the impact of technology on students. The school system purchased the laptops for teachers first, to get them acquainted with technology, before providing the first kids with their computers two years ago.

“The students were excited,” says Lauderdale County’s Technology Coordinator, Shawn Kimble. “They really took the program and ran with it. They were able to do things on the computer without training. They’re having fun and don’t even realize they’re learning.”

For now, the laptops stay at school, but Shawn hopes eventually to let the kids take their computers home with them at the end of the day. And with all of Lauderdale County’s schools now equipped with wireless Internet, the sky is the limit for the learning capacity offered by the laptops.

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**About TN 95:**

*Citizens across the state are using technology in innovative ways to ensure that Tennessee remains the place of choice to live, work and raise a family. Connected Tennessee is profiling businesses and Tennesseans in each of the state's 95 counties to identify lessons learned on the path to successful innovation. For more information visit our Web site at [www.connectedtn.org](http://www.connectedtn.org) or call 615-242-9508.*