



## “Tiger Tech Team” Teaches Bradley County Kids Important Lessons for the Future

**Name:** Tiger Tech Team

**Internet:**  
www.allaboutbrownsville.net

**Products/Services:**  
Computer cleaning and maintenance

**Location:**  
Cleveland/Bradley County

**Founded:** 2008

**Innovative Insight:** *“When you have teachers that are passionate about technology, the kids become passionate, too.”*

**The Importance of Broadband:** *“If you’re going to have technology as part of the everyday curriculum, you have to have broadband. When these teachers only have 30 minutes to teach the kids something on the computer, high-speed is essential for time purposes.”*

**The Future:** *“I start teaching things like Power Point and Excel to my second and third graders. These are programs these kids are going to need to know how to use for the rest of their lives.”*

**Cleveland, TN** – If you’re convinced you’re “smarter than a 5<sup>th</sup> grader,” you might not want to match wits with the kids of Hopewell Elementary School in Cleveland, Tennessee – or at least not in the technology category. Under the direction of technology teacher Jeanette Hill, a group of eleven tech-savvy kids recently formed what they call a “Tiger Tech Team,” designed to help teachers with their classroom technology.

In its first year, the Tiger Tech Team is responsible for cleaning and performing defragmenting and internal maintenance on the school’s computers. The program is opened to kids in their 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade year and is actually serving a two-fold purpose, according to Hill. “The computers in our school are a couple of years old and we’re trying to maintain them,” she explains. “And we’re trying to build a technological foundation for these kids for the future.”

Hopewell Elementary is a school that embraces technology wholeheartedly. Every teacher in the school has a laptop, and all classrooms come equipped with at least five computers. In addition, the school also features a computer lab with 26 computers and a tech-heavy curriculum. “I start teaching things like Power Point and Excel to my second and third graders,” says Hill. “These are programs these kids are going to need to know how to use for the rest of their lives.”

According to the school’s principal, Tim Riggs, broadband technology is the key to effective technology education. “If you’re going to have technology as part of the everyday curriculum, you have to have broadband,” he says. “When these teachers only have 30 minutes to teach the kids something on the computer, high-speed is essential for time purposes.”

So what’s up next for the Tiger Tech Team? In the spring, the kids will focus on revamping the technology page of the school’s website and producing a newsletter...tasks that might seem more than a little daunting to some people twice their age! But not for these kids, says Principal Tim Riggs. “When you have teachers that are passionate about technology,” he explains, “The kids become passionate, too.”

### **About TN 95:**

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