

Daniel M Tani

Mr. Daniel (Dan) Tani is a faculty member at The American School in Japan (ASIJ), teaching High School and Middle School science, technology and design.

Before joining ASIJ, Dan served as Vice President for Cargo and Mission Operations at Orbital ATK, a Washington DC-area aerospace company. As a member of the management team for the Cygnus program, he was responsible for cargo and real-time mission operations for the Orbital ATK designed and built spacecraft which delivers cargo to the International Space Station.



Prior to his position at Orbital ATK, Dan was an astronaut based at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. In his 16 year career at NASA, he flew on 2 space missions, for an accumulated 132 days in space, featuring 6 space walks. On his first spaceflight (2001), he served as a Mission Specialist on the 12-day STS-108 mission aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour. On his second spaceflight (2007-2008), he served as a Flight Engineer for 4 months on the International Space Station as a member of the Expedition 16 crew. He was delivered to the ISS as a member of the STS-120 crew aboard Space Shuttle Discovery, and was returned to Earth as a member of the STS-122 crew aboard Space Shuttle Atlantis. In addition to his training and preparation for spaceflight, Dan served as Capsule Communicator (“Capcom”) in Mission Control, was a Branch Chief in the Astronaut Office’s Space Station branch, and performed other technical assignments.

Originally from the Chicago area (Go Cubs!), Dan is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, having received a BS and MS in Mechanical Engineering. He is a 3rd generation Japanese-American and the son of parents that were interned at the Topaz Relocation Center as part of the mandatory evacuation of Japanese descendants during World War II. An avid golfer, he lives with his wife Jane and 3 children in Tokyo.