



# RPS NEWS

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## RPS Announces New Director of Technology

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Susie Da Silva announced that Dr. Wes DeSantis will be the new Director of Education Technology. Dr. DeSantis will be a familiar name to many RPS families as he is the current K-12 STEM Supervisor and before that a beloved Ridgefield High School physics teacher, coach of the electric car race team, and founding director of the annual cardboard boat race.



Of the hire, Superintendent Da Silva said, “We know he is up to the challenge. He was an important asset of our technology leadership before COVID struck and has been invaluable since March.” DeSantis has sat on

the RPS Technology Committee for years and worked tirelessly this summer to secure and implement some of the technologies that have been critical to being able to reopen schools, including cameras for all the teachers, which had noise-canceling capabilities so students could hear teachers even when the heat or air conditioning was on. Visit [Dr. DeSantis's website](#) to see the many ways that he engaged to make technology accessible to students and departments.

“I know the power of technology in today’s classroom,” said DeSantis. “I also know the drawbacks. It’s so important that we stay up-to-date, flexible, and informed as we harness these amazing resources to support teachers, families, and learning. Technology needs to be considered a teaching tool, not a panacea or replacement.”

Dr. DeSantis’s voice will be recognizable to anyone who has heard the District’s highly entertaining, weekly Tiger Talk podcasts. As founder and host, “Dr. Dee-Santis” has interviewed many building leaders from RHS athletic director Dane Street to the team responsible for COVID response to elementary principals and most recently, the RPS music staff. While the podcasts highlight many different aspects of RPS, they also reveal DeSantis’s thoughtful approach to technology, respect for colleagues and students, and passion for education. He nurtures fun and engagement on-air and in person. Listen to the [Tiger Talk podcasts here](#).

DeSantis is an adjunct professor at Western Connecticut State University and recently completed peer-reviewed research involving the use of Virtual Reality Simulations in the training of new teachers. He will begin his new role as Director of Technology on January 1, 2021. Thank you, Dr. DeSantis, and congratulations on your promotion.