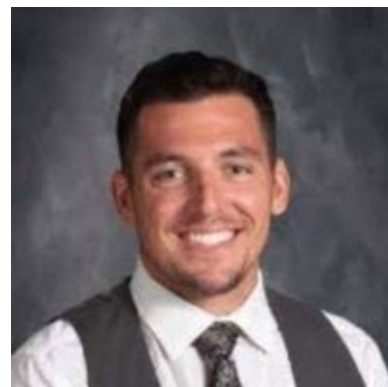


Leadership Journeys

**Andrew Duininck, Executive Director
Great Hearts Texas**



After years of teaching in both public schools and international settings, Mr. Duininck found himself searching for something more—a school community that wasn't just about academics but about forming the whole person. "I was looking for something deeper. A mindset and a lifestyle, not just an educational system," he recalls. "Great Hearts drew me in with its commitment to intellectual and moral excellence." It was the classical tradition—its pursuit of truth, beauty, and goodness—that ultimately resonated with him. "There's something deeply human about returning to the great books and big questions that have shaped our culture."



Since joining Great Hearts, Mr. Duininck has served as a classroom teacher, instructional coach, and school leader, each role grounded in a shared mission to form the hearts and minds of young people. For him, leadership growth didn't come solely from experience or training, but from immersion in the texts that define classical thought. "Reading Plato, Aristotle, Augustine—these thinkers shaped not just how I think, but how I lead. They challenge us to lead with virtue, wisdom, and humility."

His time in the Headmaster College was another pivotal moment, providing space to explore big questions while tackling practical challenges. "It was invaluable to learn alongside fellow leaders and receive mentorship that was both challenging and encouraging." Now serving as Executive Director for Lower Schools in North Texas, Mr. Duininck supports campuses through times of growth and transition. "It's incredibly rewarding to collaborate with Headmasters who are so committed to the mission. Walking alongside them as they lead has been a joy."

Yet, the new role comes with its own challenges. "The hardest part will be finding the right balance—being present on campuses while stepping back to focus on strategic growth. I love being in classrooms, and I'll have to be intentional to stay connected at every level. At the heart of it all is the classical vision. It continues to shape my work and remind me what kind of leader I hope to be—one who serves with integrity, thoughtfulness, and care."