

Dear Great Hearts Irving Families,

As a fellow Great Hearts Irving parent, I share the excitement many of you feel when driving by the Upper School campus and seeing the new middle school and gymnasium go up. It is a boost every week to watch the campus progress unfold that so many of you have hoped for, fought for, and given so generously to help bring about.

I'm writing today to share exciting announcements and updates relating to the expansion of our Upper School. To recap: last year we announced the addition of a gymnasium and middle school building as well as the addition of two sections both in 6th and 7th grade to be phased in over two years. By adding these sections, we will be able to better meet the high demand for Great Hearts in Irving as well as fund the gymnasium and additional multi-purpose spaces that we have needed. We also announced that our new middle school building would have a leadership team of its own.

I am delighted to announce that **Mrs. Mariel Mueller will be the Head of Irving Middle School**. Mrs. Mueller has taught and served in classical education for 23 years. She has a profound love for Great Hearts Irving and deep roots within our community. Mrs. Mueller was a founding faculty member of Great Hearts Irving in 2015 and has served as Assistant Headmaster of the Upper School for the past 5 years. As Head of the Middle School, she will lead the academic and cultural life of 6th-8th grade students and faculty and directly oversee all daily operations.

To maintain strong alignment of vision and culture between the middle school and high school and minimize communication complexities, **Dr. Dyer will become the Executive Headmaster** over all of the Upper School (grades 6-12) in addition to serving as the **Head of the High School**. Thus Irving Upper School will remain one, 6-12 school. Mrs. Mueller will serve under Dr. Dyer, and they will continue to work closely together in establishing the vision and cultural norms of the Upper School and supervising the use of shared resources such as the new gymnasium, outdoor and carline spaces, as well as personnel that will serve in both buildings. Mrs. Mueller's leadership of the Middle School will allow Dr. Dyer to focus more of her efforts on our High School students and faculty.

Finally, beginning next year, we will add one more section in 5th grade at Irving Lower School. This will allow students who would have joined us in 6th grade to begin their Great Hearts journey a full year earlier. As we think about the years to come, we know the entire grade will benefit from this incremental entry point as they will have more time to develop the ties of friendship and shared academic experiences. This will not be the first year Irving Lower School has had an additional section in 5th grade, and we are delighted to be able to extend the Great Hearts offering to more families.

I hope you will consider joining us for a Town Hall on Thursday, February 3rd at 5:30pm at the Upper School where we will share more about this plan and respond to any questions you may have.

In partnership,



David Denton

Executive Director - North Texas