

Covington Catholic High School Principal Bob Rowe is the first-ever recipient of the Stan Steidel Distinguished Administrator Award for his long-term and significant contributions to athletics in Northern Kentucky.

With 26 years in education (as a teacher, guidance counselor, dean of discipline, assistant principal, and principal), his experience as a high school athlete and high school coach have strengthened and demonstrated his belief that education should develop the whole person – spiritually, academically, socially, as well as physically.

His long tenure as a coach at Bishop Brossart High School began as a Varsity assistant and JV coach for basketball in 1997. From 1997-2008, he assisted for teams which achieved four District Championships, a Regional Runner-up, an All “A” State Runner-up, the 2000 10<sup>th</sup> Region Championship, and the 2007 All “A” State Championship. He also assistant coached the Girls Varsity team from 2019-2021, including a 10<sup>th</sup> Region Championship in 2021.

Bob added baseball at BBHS in 1998, winning 206 games as a coach until 2008. The Mustangs were District Champions in 1999, 2006, and 2007; NKAC Division II Champions in 1999, 2004, 2005, and 2007; 10<sup>th</sup> Region Runner-up in 1999 and 2001; and held a five-year run as 10<sup>th</sup> Region Champions in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008. This record earned him the Northern Kentucky Athletic Conference Division II Coach of the Year title in both 2004 and 2005, as well as the Kentucky High School Baseball Coaches Association 10<sup>th</sup> Region Coach of the Year honor for 2007 and 2008.

Since Bob became principal at Covington Catholic High School in 2007, the school, campus, and athletics program have been transformed under fourteen years of his leadership. Academically, Covington Catholic was awarded its second National Blue Ribbon School Award in ten years, in 2016. The past four graduating classes have averaged over 26 on the ACT test. Significant commitment and investment have been made to outstanding academic programs such as the establishment of a comprehensive STEM (Engineering-focused) program, which has been recognized for four consecutive years as a PLTW “Distinguished School” (1 of only 33 programs nationwide and 1 of 5 in Kentucky to receive this award).

Spiritually, CovCath has a comprehensive campus ministry program and religious education focus which helps develop a robust faith in its young men. In addition to a strong community service program which results in graduates who average over 100 hours of service, under Mr. Rowe’s leadership, CovCath has introduced a mandatory drug testing program (2016) and a House System (2018) to promote healthy and supported social growth.

The strong spiritual, academic, and social foundations at CovCath have helped enable tremendous athletic success as well. During Bob’s time as principal, CovCath has won six (team) state championships: Track and Field (2009), Basketball (2014 and 2018), Football (2017 and 2019), and Soccer (2015). In addition, CCH Soccer reached the state Final Four in 2009, Basketball was in the Final Four in 2015, and Football claimed the State Runner-up position in 2018. CovCath has recently added KHSAA-sanctioned teams for Wrestling, Archery, and Bass Fishing, for a total of 13 KHSAA sports at CCH which in total involve approximately 2/3 of all CovCath students in at least one sport.

This involvement was supported by expansion of the CCH campus from 19 to 33 acres, with new and enhanced academic and athletic facilities. Under Bob’s leadership, a \$13 million capital campaign in 2014-2016 funded: the Schott Sports Center; the Yung Family Tennis Complex; the Dennis Griffin

Stadium; the Zembrodt STEM and Fine Arts Center; the Drees Family Alumni and Student Center; a new dugout and turf infield for the baseball field; and the most recent acquisition of a fieldhouse facility which will include a weight room and 40 yards of indoor turf.