

# *Dr. William Steiden*

## **Distinguished Emeritus**



For Dr. William E. Steiden, leading Princeton High School as principal from 1975 to 1986 was one of the crowning achievements of a 40-year career in education. During his principalship, Princeton achieved superlatives in many categories – as state football champions in 1983 and 1987; as one of Ohio’s largest and best-equipped secondary schools, with nearly 3000 students enrolled; in academic breadth and excellence, with programs that included four years of instruction in Russian, a vast array of arts and music offerings, as well as math courses that provided students with individualized instruction; and, as a leader in computer science, long before home computers had become commonplace. In 1984, the U.S. Department of Education named Princeton High School one of the nation’s best schools. That same year, Dr. Steiden undertook and oversaw the implementation of the International Baccalaureate program. Through his efforts, Princeton became one of the first schools in the country to participate in the IB program.

Dr. Steiden, who grew up in a working-class home and was the first in his family to attend college, was especially proud of Princeton’s reputation for providing top educational opportunities for students from all walks of life, boasting to Cincinnati Magazine that its enrollment was a “cross section” of what was “typically American.”

Before coming to Princeton, the University of Kentucky graduate has achieved distinction in Cincinnati-area schools, directing the band and orchestra at Walnut Hills High School, where he was one of the founders of the Cincinnati Youth Symphony, and he also served as assistant principal at Sawyer Junior High School. After earning his doctorate, he was principal of Finneytown High School, where he is a member of the district’s Hall of Fame. After departing Princeton, he resumed a career that had begun in Kentucky, serving until his retirement as principal of Erlanger’s Lloyd Memorial High School. He also served in the U.S. Army and the Army Reserves, retiring with the rank of colonel.

He and his late wife Alma raised three children, two of whom are Princeton graduates. The Steidens were longtime residents of Sharonville and active participants in civic affairs.