## UME Preparatory Academy Mascot and School Colors





UME Prep's mascot is the American Bald Eagle. Few symbols in America capture as many of the virtues that we desire our staff, students, and families to embody. Among them are: strength, grace, freedom, honor, self-reliance, and independence.

The eagle was declared the national bird of America on June 20, 1787, when the Continental Congress voted in favor of adopting the Great Seal. The Great Seal served as the coat of arms for the new nation and was the first official article to bear the eagle's image.

Charles Thomson, Secretary of the Continental Congress and signer of the Declaration of Independence, was the final designer of the Great Seal and chose the eagle because it symbolized the independent, self-reliant nature of the fledgling country. The principal colors first made prominent for our country on the Great

Seal, and adopted by UME Prep, were red, white, and blue. According to Mr. Thomson, he chose these colors because "White signifies virtue and innocence, Red signifies hardiness & valor, and Blue signifies vigilance, perseverance & justice."<sup>1</sup> Silver was chosen to accent and tie these colors together because it represents truth, sincerity, reliability, and intelligence.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Information and image of the Great Seal taken from: http://www.greatseal.com/index.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Information from: http://www.princetonol.com/groups/iad/lessons/middle/color2.htm and http://www.digiserve.com/heraldry/symbols.htm