



Hello from New York! I am thrilled and privileged to have an opportunity to introduce myself as Summit's Principal starting in the summer of 2012. I have been focusing on leading and teaching the middle years for over fifteen years.

I am currently Head of the middle school at Manlius Pebble Hill School, in central New York. Before heading the middle school at MPH, I was the Head of middle school at Crystal Springs Uplands School in the Bay Area. I also served as Middle School Head at the Dwight School in New York City and was involved in its implementation of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years program.

I have been active in the California Association of Independent Schools and the New York Association of Independent Schools. Most recently I took on the leadership of the Beginning Teacher Institute here in New York, where I taught a curriculum combining survival skills and educational vision for new teachers across the state. A particular focus of mine has revolved around helping junior teachers develop the kind of passion for learning and teaching that I have. In addition, I have provided workshops on issues regarding technology as a tool, character education, social aggression and diversity and have written articles and have spoken at local and regional forums and on television regarding bully prevention and curriculum innovation. I also am a very big proponent of using social media to grow professionally and to connect with other thinkers and educators. If you want to read more, please check out my blog ([learninginthemiddle.blogspot.com](http://learninginthemiddle.blogspot.com)) or follow me on Twitter (@jimeagen).

In short, education is my passion and I have always believed in leading from the middle – and middle school (believe it or not!) is exactly where I like to be. For me, personally, middle school was a game-changer – and it is with that respect and admiration for this age group and their caretakers – both parents and teachers alike – that I teach and lead.

My interests are as varied and broad as the places I have been. I have climbed on Mount Everest. I have authored a middle school text entitled, *First Peoples: The Aymara of South America*. I have run across the Grand Canyon and back, raced in the Ironman World Championships and written music for an off-Broadway play. My educational background includes an undergraduate degree from Manhattanville College, with a year-long stint at Oxford, and a master's degree from Columbia University.

We are delighted to be coming to Boulder. My wife Ellen, who I met during my first teaching job, was taken by the Rockies and the warmth of the Summit community when we visited in the fall. And, our two young children are already asking about Summit's school colors. In other words, we can't wait to join the Summit Huskies in the months ahead!

We look forward to meeting each and every one of you.

Jim Eagen  
Principal Elect, Summit