

# Innovative 5th Grade Teacher Brings Cognitive Data to the Forefront of Teaching, Planning, and Learning

Stanley Elementary School | Stanley, WI



## Overview and Challenge

Andrea Mahr, a 5th grade teacher at Stanley Elementary School in the Stanley-Boyd School District in Stanley, Wisconsin, was interested in learning more about how her students learned, specifically, the ways in which they organized and processed information to complete their work. Having taught for thirteen years and currently serving on the fifth grade leadership team, she recognized a critical gap in her understanding of her students: she needed cognitive data about them.

## Solution

Andrea selected MindPrint Learning to help her gain a better understanding of her students' learning strengths and challenges. Her goal was to use the cognitive data captured by MindPrint to develop students' self-awareness, fostering a sense of ownership over their learning, and increasing higher order thinking skills. Ultimately, this would be reflected in high quality student work. To ensure success, Andrea worked with a variety of stakeholders at her school to help systematically build her students' self-awareness.

### School Profile

- + Stanley-Boyd School District
- + Grades K-5
- + Enrollment: 434
- + 5th Grade Highlight



*I love the concept of metacognition and helping students be more aware of themselves as learners.*



**Andrea Mahr**  
5th grade teacher



In September 2023, all fifth grade students in Andrea's class took the MindPrint Assessment. The results for each student, as well as the grade as a whole, were shared with educators and administrators.

At the classroom level, Andrea used the lessons in MindPrint's BOOST Course to introduce students to their unique learning profiles, and how to use specific strategies to leverage their strengths to make learning easier. Andrea had each student target one or two strategies to use for one month and plan how and when they would use this strategy. Students documented their strategy use and also reflected on their effectiveness in their student journals along the way.

As for planning and instruction, Andrea used MindPrint data to select grade-wide targeted strategies as well as to group students based on their strengths. She gathered her fifth grade team during PLCs and analyzed the cognitive data further to determine their area of focus.

Next, the team selected strategies they would implement across the whole group to support that focus area. Additionally, Andrea used the data to create differentiated student groupings based on their similar strengths as a means to tailor instruction and increase student engagement and collaboration.

Andrea also utilized MindPrint data and resources to enhance family engagement. Andrea introduced MindPrint to parents and caregivers through a video that explained the assessment and how to read their student profiles (although she noted they are fairly self-explanatory). She then sent home each student's profile, a selection of targeted strategies that students should be practicing at home, as well as strategies for how adults can support their child. Additionally, Andrea utilized the student profiles as a resource in parent-teacher conferences throughout the year.

## Results

Andrea quickly saw the benefits of using MindPrint's data with her students in just a few months of implementation. Specifically, Andrea gained new insights about her students and a noticeable increase in her students' self-awareness. Her students talked about their stronger reasoning or memory skills, and specific strategies they used each week. The students felt a sense of pride and accomplishment in their strategy use and Andrea saw that translate to classroom engagement and work performance. Additionally, Andrea noticed that off-task behavior among her students significantly decreased, and some of her students "turned a whole new leaf."

Andrea long felt that the responsibility wasn't solely on the teacher to help prepare students for middle school and beyond. She's always believed that students need to take more ownership over their learning and behavior, but hadn't found a way to release that responsibility until MindPrint. She says, "I feel that I have only slightly tapped into the many advantages that this information provides me. I feel like I do have a look into my students' internal processes, which I love."

## Looking Ahead

MindPrint Learning is giving Andrea a head start on the next school year. She expressed, "The human mind is powerful! It can be even more powerful when you understand your own brain better! As a teacher, one of my favorite things is getting to know my new group of students each fall. Each group is so unique and uncovering their uniqueness can be found out more efficiently with MindPrint! I love that I can leverage this information from early on in the year!" Andrea is excited to continue leveraging the cognitive data in her classroom, in planning, and with families to help her students succeed in school and beyond.



### Learn more about the Modern Classrooms Project

MindPrint Learning joined forces with the Modern Classrooms Project to offer a pilot combined program in the 2023-2024 school year. In this pilot, educators utilized the MindPrint Assessment, Learning Strategies, and MindPrint Science of Learning Professional Development to focus on strengths-based, personalized learning.

The Modern Classrooms Project is an innovative program that helps educators re-engineer their classrooms - so that every student, in every classroom, gets the support they need. Teachers join the movement by enrolling in an online professional development course focused on researched-backed instructional models including blended instruction, self-paced structures, and mastery-based learning.



info@mindprintlearning.com  
(609) 356-1480  
mindprintlearning.com

