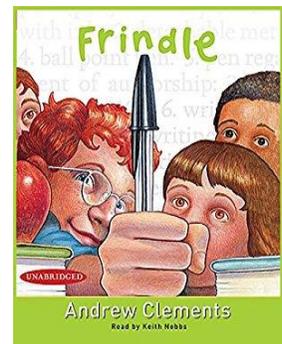




My name is Matthew Strain and it is a blessing to be part of the St. Peter's school and community. It is my second year as the fifth grade teacher and I look forward to working with our fifth graders as we challenge them academically and prepare them to enter middle school. It is always exciting to witness a student's growth as they begin to make connections to real-world applications.

This year we will begin by revisiting some familiar concepts and then hit the ground running. To kick things off, we will introduce the process of writing a personal narrative. This will set the stage for future writing labs where students will learn the process of paraphrasing and retelling the main idea in their own words. Additionally, we will spend a good portion of the first marking period discussing and analyzing the short fiction novel *Frindle*. This is a wonderful story of a fifth grade student who makes up his own word for "pen" and becomes a national celebrity. In addition to the reading and writing component, we will be expanding student's knowledge in the grammar world; exploring elements of parts of speech, as well as expanding their vocabulary.



For Science and Social Studies, we will be splitting these content areas, such that we will be concentrating on the Social Studies curriculum the first semester and the Science curriculum the second semester. However, students will have the opportunity to explore scientific methods as they participate in our STEM program once a week.

During the first semester, the Social Studies curriculum will highlight the branches of government and the purpose of each branch. Additionally, we will explore the importance and impact of the Revolutionary War.



The fifth grade math program will have a fresh look because fifth graders will be introduced to the program that is being used in our middle school. Students will focus on problem solving strategies and learn methods that will enable them to solve equations using mental math strategies. I am excited about this program and I look forward to helping students develop and implement these strategies.

Last, but not least, I am truly looking forward to exploring how Jesus shows God's love and giving our fifth graders an opportunity to reflect on how Jesus calls each of them to discipleship. Additionally, we will learn about the Sacrament of Confirmation and Liturgy of the Eucharist during the first semester.