

# U-Turn Teaching: Strategies to Accelerate Learning and Transform Middle School Achievement

By Richard (Rich) Allen, Jennifer (Jenn) L. Currie



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# Help middle schoolers engage in the classroom before it's too late!

For many educators, middle school is the last chance to put in place strong, positive learning patterns that will last through high school and beyond. Based on Rich Allen's "Green Light" education strategies, this book takes what researchers have discovered about how the adolescent brain learns best and shows how those discoveries directly relate to effective classroom teaching. Now you can engage all students, even unmotivated ones, by applying these four principles of brain-based learning:

- · Build and maintain trust
- Create a collaborative community
- Take a TEAMing approach
- Prime the positive environment



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#### **Editorial Review**

#### Review

"Teaching middle school students can be and should be challenging and invigorating! This book describes some new strategies that teachers and students alike will enjoy!" (Ellen E. Coulson, Teacher 2012-03-21)

"This book is a great stepping stone for all teachers looking for new ways to connect to today's middle school students." (Gayla LeMay, Teacher 2012-03-20)

"Teachers buy books hoping to improve instructional strategies in their classroom. The books are read and evaluated with many clever and interesting ideas, but no answers for why the ideas work, or how to adapt them in their classroom. U-Turn Teaching is different. It provides clear and concise strategies and insight as to why they work. I watched Jenn as she studied brain based learning. Her classroom became a hive of renewed enthusiasm as she embraced the knowledge she presents in this book. This book will challenge you and renew your passion for teaching. It will be your U-turn experience!" (Darlene Waldorf, Elementary Teacher 2012-05-09)

"If you truly believe the number one factor affecting student achievement is the teacher, then you must also recognize the critical importance of continuing to enhance professional practice. U-Turn Teaching will become the guidebook for educators looking to boost student engagement through intrinsically motivating strategies. The utilization of U-Turn strategies will further unlock the potential in every student. The development of a true classroom community will increase student achievement and subsequently decrease disruptive behavior. Teachers must develop an in-depth understanding of how to bring their classrooms into the 21st century?this resource will transform middle school achievement!" (Shawn Algoe, Elementary Principal 2012-06-25)

"Taken straight from the daily life of the students, I felt instantly immersed into the classroom. Chocked full of vignettes, the authors help the reader visualize the interactive environment, which leads to easy implementation. This book taught me techniques I did not learn in college, and thus, once applied, allowed me to start my teaching endeavor in the right direction. This is a great how-to book I will continue to come back to time and time again." (Jenna Malnar, Elementary Teacher 2012-07-03)

About the Author

Learn more about Rich Allen's PD offerings

Richard Allen is an international consultant with more than 25 years experience coaching trainers and educators. Cofounder and president of Education Illustrated, he has taken the *TrainSmart* strategies beyond the United States and Canada to such diverse countries as the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore, Brunei, Russia, Jordan, and Brazil. Allen is also a popular keynote speaker at international conferences, and he facilitates motivational and teambuilding workshops.

Allen started his educational career as a high school math and drama teacher. In 1985, he became a lead facilitator for SuperCamp?an accelerated learning program for teens?and has since worked with more than 25,000 students worldwide. He completed his doctorate in educational psychology at Arizona State

University, where he studied how the human brain receives, processes, and recalls information?knowledge that informs all aspects of his training strategies.

Jenn Currie has been teaching in the Commodore Perry School District for over 15 years, working largely with adolescents in grades 4–6. Since discovering brain-based learning strategies in 2005, Jenn has consistently helped 'problem' students achieve their first-ever academic successes. Her work has been recognized formally, as *Teacher of the Year* in 2008 and 2010, and informally through numerous letters from her students, their parents and administrators.

After seeing powerful results in her own classroom, Jenn has become a staunch advocate of supporting student success through best practices and brain research. She has taken an increased role in professional development: facilitating workshops for parents, mentoring beginning teachers, leading professional study groups, as well as running in-service trainings at various school districts, universities and state conferences. Since 2009, she has led a continuing education course entitled, "The Winning Combination: Linking Brain Research with Practical Classroom Strategies".

Jenn earned her B.S. and M. Ed in Elementary Education from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, and is currently pursuing a doctoral program in Teaching and Learning. Despite having taught for nearly two decades, she continues to delight in the challenge of showing every student that they *can* succeed.

Along with her husband Scott and their canine companion Maggie, Jenn lives in the small, rural town of Greenville, Pennsylvania. Together, they enjoy cooking and spending time in the great outdoors hiking, four-wheeling, and horseback riding. She may be reached at jenncurrie@verizon.net.

# **Users Review**

#### From reader reviews:

## **Yvonne Casey:**

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important act, like looking for your favorite e-book and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your trouble; you can add your knowledge by the guide entitled U-Turn Teaching: Strategies to Accelerate Learning and Transform Middle School Achievement. Try to make book U-Turn Teaching: Strategies to Accelerate Learning and Transform Middle School Achievement as your good friend. It means that it can for being your friend when you sense alone and beside that course make you smarter than ever. Yeah, it is very fortuned to suit your needs. The book makes you a lot more confidence because you can know almost everything by the book. So, let us make new experience as well as knowledge with this book.

#### **David Bergeron:**

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## **Nelson Berg:**

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