

Motivation Matters and Interest Counts

Fostering Engagement in Mathematics



James A. Middleton
Amanda Jansen



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS

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“Practical yet rigorous, *Motivation Matters and Interest Counts* helps teachers understand that all students can be motivated and provides research-based strategies for engaging students in challenging mathematics.

The authors respect teachers and their intelligence: they tell stories to illustrate how research is reflected in practice, but they offer no quick fixes. Instead, the book engages the teacher’s most basic motivation: How can I reach these children at this time, to help them realize their mathematical and personal potential? This is one that you will want to read.”

GLENDALAPPAN

Professor, Michigan State University

Past President, NCTM (1998–2000)

Recipient, NCTM Mathematics Education Trust’s
Lifetime Achievement Award



“It’s exciting to see these authors bring to teachers—in a very practical way—the many things we know from research about engaging students. Middleton and Jansen let us know that motivation isn’t something students bring to the classroom; it’s something teachers can stimulate in every

learner. Linking research to classroom teaching in this hands-on, engaging way is exactly what teachers need to improve their teaching and tap the potential of every student.”

CATHY SEELEY

Senior Fellow and AMDM/AQR Project Director

Charles A. Dana Center, University of Texas at Austin

Past President, NCTM (2004–06)



“This book is a powerful account of the root causes of students’ motivation, and lack thereof, in school mathematics. The stories presented and the conversational style of the writing make the research-based strategies suggested by the authors come alive! It is a crucial addition to the library

of any school leader.”

CAROL G. PECK

President and CEO,

Rodel Charitable Foundation of Arizona

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