



► FEATURE ARTICLE:  
 FLAGS VS. WIND: WEIGHING YOUR  
 OPTIONS  
 WHY AND HOW TO WEIGHT YOUR FLAGS



► GET SET . . . FOR ANOTHER  
 AMAZING SUMMER—FJM NEWS  
 AND INFORMATION



► SMILE!  
 DO YOU ACCEPT THIS  
 CHALLENGE?

# Clinic chronicle

**Get set. The Mind set. The Skill set.  
 FJM Summer Clinics**

## Flags vs. Wind: Weighing Your Options



Ever have a rehearsal where the wind is blowing so that the color guard has to run twenty yards after releasing a toss in order to catch? Sure—everyone has! However, you might not have known that weighting your color guard's flag poles can help alleviate this problem, giving your color guard members more control when tossing in wind. Additionally, weights in flag poles can help compensate for the drag caused by the silk and make tossing and spinning easier for physically weaker members of your color guard.

All flags can be weighted, it does not matter if you use swing flags, five foot poles or twelve foot poles. When deciding to weight your flag poles, choose rounded top carriage bolts with the same

size head as the pole diameter. Carriage bolts can be purchased from FJM or your local hardware store. It does not matter what size weight is used, only that the bottom bolt is approximately half the size of the top. For example, try using a 3 inch carriage bolt on the top of the pole and 1 ½ inch carriage bolt in the bottom for a six foot pole. For smaller poles, like swing flags, consider using smaller bolts (2 inch carriage bolts on top and 1 inch carriage bolts on bottom) and using longer bolts for longer poles. Insert the carriage bolt into the pole and use electrical tape to secure the bolt in the pole—this eliminates the clanging sound when spinning. Next, it is important to put an end cap or crutch tip over the bolt and again, using electrical tape, secure the tip to the

pole. This reduces the risk of a stray bolt traveling across the field and attacking a tuba.

Trying several tosses will tell you if the weights are correct. The flag should leave your hand smoothly, not with a sudden jerk, and rotate all the way around with only a small effort on your part. Stopping the flag in the correct catch position should take some effort but should be easy to do by squeezing on the catch. Remember, if you have never used weights in your flags before, the flag is going to feel heavier at first, but with a little practice your color guard will demonstrate more overall control with their flags.

## Challenge!

Besides officially requiring fewer facial muscles to smile than to frown, have you ever benefited from a smile? Smiling is one of the fastest ways to cheer yourself up, brighten someone else's day, and improve the mood of those around you. Haven't you even been convinced you can "hear" someone smiling on the other end of a phone call? This simple act can and does have some remarkable benefits. Smile at yourself in the mirror for 10 seconds in the morning before you do anything else. Smile at the first 10 people you see each day, even if you don't know them or speak to them. Or take the advanced challenge and smile at EVERYONE you encounter.

*Smiling is contagious; you catch it like the flu. When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling, too. I passed around the corner, and someone saw my grin. When he smiled I realized, I'd passed it on to him.*

~ Anonymous



# Registration

for our

2008

clinics

is now

open!

Register online by

May 31 for a

discounted fee!

## News of Note

- Would you like to attend one of our clinics . . . for FREE? Enter our drawings online to win FREE clinic tuition! The April drawing winner is Alyson Liszewski from Herminie, PA.
- The 2008 clinic brochures have been mailed and are arriving in schools! You can access our virtual brochure on our website.
- The 2008 clinic theme is *Get set*. Students will be involved in technique, performance, team-building, motivational, and leadership classes to help them achieve the best *mind set* and *skill set* possible. *Get set* to be inspired, prepared, and motivated!
- Our clinic t-shirts and

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memorabilia will be available for pre-purchase online toward the end of May. Order your clinic merchandise early to have it ready to wear to camp!

- Need someone to help write your color guard, dance, or twirling routines? Register for our customized choreography section, submit your music to our office, and a staff member will write your work and teach it during our clinic instructional time. Contact us today to get started!
- Don't live near one of our clinic sites? We can come **TO YOU!!** Contact us to schedule a private clinic at your school. The expertise and experience of our clinic program and staff with the convenience of your location!!

DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT



**Jeremy D. Klein**  
Robinson High School  
Tampa FL

Mr. Jeremy D. Klein has been Director of Bands at Robinson High School in Tampa, FL since July 2004, where his teaching responsibilities include Marching Band, Percussion Techniques, Concert Band, Chamber Ensemble, Jazz Band, and overall Administrator to the Robinson High School Starlet Dance Ensemble. Prior to his appointment at Robinson, Mr. Klein taught General Music at Robles Elementary. Since his time at Robinson, the Band Program has received Superior Ratings in both Concert and Marching Band District Festivals, placed in their division in Marching Band Festivals, and has increased in size more than fifty percent. Most recently, the Wind Ensemble received straight superior ratings at the State Music Performance Assessment, which was the first time in school history. The Marching Knights have been invited to perform in such venues as the Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, FL., along with the Christmas Day Parade in London, England.

Mr. Klein attended the University of South Florida, where he received a B.A. in Music Education. While at USF, Mr. Klein was a member of the Wind Ensemble, Symphony Band, Clarinet Choir, and was on staff with the USF Festival of Winds Honor Band Festival. He is currently working on his Masters Degree in Education Leadership.

Mr. Klein has recently received the prestigious Tom Bishop Award, presented by the Florida Bandmasters Association in recognition for the positive impact he has made on his Band Program. Along with this, the Tampa City Council awarded Mr. Klein with a commendation for his efforts. Furthermore the Robinson High School Wind Ensemble was featured in the Tampa Tribune, Tampa's local newspaper.

Mr. Klein holds memberships in Music Education Nation Conference (MENC), Florida Music Educators Association (FMEA), Florida Bandmasters Association (FBA), and Phi Mu Alpha Music Fraternity (PMA). He lives by the motto: *SUCCESS is the ONLY OPTION*. With this, he hopes to impact each of his students and provide them with a full circle Music Education program.

*Want to see your director here?  
Email us at [clinics@fjminc.com](mailto:clinics@fjminc.com) to  
nominate someone who inspires  
you!*

## Resource Corner

Check out some of these books that offer educational activities and insightful information to help you and your group succeed!

*The Right To Lead* by John C. Maxwell

*Teaching Music with Passion: Conducting, Rehearsing, and Inspiring* by Peter Loel Boonshaft

*The Power of Positive Thinking* by Dr. Norman Vincent Peale

*The Performance Factor: Unlocking the Secrets of Teamwork* by Pat MacMillan

We are always here for you! Contact us any time of year when you and your organization need a motivational boost!



**Fred J. Miller, Inc.**  
**Lauren Tucker, Clinic Coordinator**

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