



► FEATURE ARTICLE:  
SPRING TRY-OUTS—PREPARATION  
FOR DIRECTORS AND STUDENTS



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



► WHAT'S IN A NAME?  
DO YOU ACCEPT THIS CHAL-  
LENGE?

# Clinic chronicle

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

*Potential and work ethic can outweigh perfection.*

## Gearing Up For Spring Try-Outs

As everyone prepares to transition into the spring months of warmer weather, new flowers blooming, and spring vacations, we all start thinking about our next performance season. We select music, plan themes and show designs, and fight for field or gym practice times. In just a few short months, summer rehearsals and camps will begin and we're back in the excitement of new performance and show opportunities.

Have you started to think about try-outs and auditions for color guard squads, drum majors, dance teams, students leadership positions, and majorette lines? Here are some helpful hints for directors and coaches to run smooth auditions and for students to prepare effectively for them.

Planning the try-out events:

- Schedule your dates, avoid major conflicts, secure facilities, add your events to

the school calendar

- Publicize your try-outs: have current members or graduating seniors make announcements, hang posters, and set up an information table during lunch; add information to school newsletters; make a visit to middle schools to provide information
- Hold an informational meeting or mixer with current members prior to practices, clinics, and try-outs to allow questions and pass out paperwork
- Set application, attendance, and skill requirements early and convey the info to interested students
- Keep performance requirements achievable, appropriate level
- Keep practices, clinics, and try-outs relaxed and fun, yet productive and organized
- Look for hard workers with potential more than perfect performers



Participating in the try-out:

- Collect information, paper work, requirements, schedules
- Ask questions and talk to current members, know what is expected
- Be prompt, responsible, work hard, be attentive, be friendly
- Practice additional time on your own or with a friend
- Ask questions during practice
- Have fun, relax, enjoy the experience
- Judges look for potential, not perfection

Good luck to everyone planning or participating in a try-out! Contact our Summer Clinic department for more information on preparing for a try-out.

## Challenge!

In our fast-paced world that often has us looking for shortcuts, remember that using a person's name when addressing them, greeting them, thanking them, or simply just walking past them can go a long way in making that person feel appreciated and recognized. When someone you have met once or twice uses your name, don't you feel as if you were important enough for that person to recall exactly who you were? What a feeling! If your waiter at a restaurant introduces himself, say hello back and use his name. If the sales clerk at a retail store is wearing a name tag, thank her or ask for help using her name. Challenge yourself to frequently use the name of every person you meet, greet, and already know when involved in conversation.

*"Remember that a man's name is to him the sweetest and most important sound in any language."  
~ Dale Carnegie*





Alexandra Finke

Cara Schroeder

Macy Lenox

Laila Ammar

**Congratulations to our 2007 Robert A. Black Higher Education Scholarship Recipients!**

- ~ Laila Ammar  
Northwestern HS, OH
- ~ Alexandra Finke  
Archbishop Alter HS, OH
- ~ Macy Lenox  
James Wood HS, VA
- ~ Cara Schroeder  
Lehman Catholic HS, OH

# News of Note

- 2008 dates and locations are now available online.
- Online registration for 2008 clinics will begin in April.
- 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!
- 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

Make your plans for attending FJM Summer Clinics today! 2008 information available at [www.fjmclinics.com](http://www.fjmclinics.com)

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!!

- Be sure to check our web site

frequently for new resources, newsletters, and podcasts! Send us an email to let us know what you would like us to write about in our newsletters and talk about in our podcasts.

**DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT**



**CELESTINO SOSA**  
LITTLE ELM HIGH SCHOOL, TX

Celestino Sosa began his color guard career as a student at San Angelo Central HS and marched with Odyssey Winter Guard. He has directed numerous color and winter guards in the state of Texas. Each of the groups with which he has worked has seen rapid growth, promotion to higher classifications in competitive circuits, and many championships and medal-winning performances.

Celestino currently teaches at Little Elm HS, in Little Elm, TX. Joining the winter guard in just its third year in existence, he has helped lead them to many individual and group awards and accomplishments. The winter guard was a finalist at the 2008 WGI Dallas Regional and was promoted to the next class, continuing to meet the group's constant goal. Celestino encourages and inspires his guard to work hard and make consistent improvements, saying, "If you don't think about the placement or score and just have a good performance, everything else is 'icing on the cake'".

"The guard students at Little Elm are unique in that they come from all walks of life. Our rehearsals can be fun and frustrating at the same time. They know the work and the counts, but individual breaks come and go. I am very proud of Little Elm's success. I can't take all the credit. I always tell my students, 'You make me look good.' I hope to stay at Little Elm to see them grow into a World Class Group (every director's dream) but will be happy with just knowing that they love the activity. After 27 years of doing this, I always learn something new about the activity and about myself. As long as I can continue to be a good example to my students, you will find me in a gym, pulling a floor, or moving a prop."

*Read more about the Little Elm HS color guard on our website.*

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



## Resource Corner

As you prepare for your upcoming performance season, remember to include student motivation as an important part of your process and procedures. Students that feel more personally connected to the activity and group members will be more productive, more reliable, and more likely to stay with your program for their entire high school career. Here are some web sites you might find useful as you plan your motivational approach.

- [www.fjmclinics.com](http://www.fjmclinics.com) (of course!!)
- [www.forabetterlife.org](http://www.forabetterlife.org)
- [www.charactercounts.org](http://www.charactercounts.org)
- [www.teachmeteamwork.com](http://www.teachmeteamwork.com)

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**

**[www.fjmclinics.com](http://www.fjmclinics.com)**