

Academy News

November 2025

Pedro Menendez High School

Volume: 3 Issue: 13

This issue is jammed with exciting classroom news for all our academies!



What an exciting month!



A Huge Thank You to Dr. Russ Nelligan and the Eye Center of St. Augustine!

We are incredibly grateful to Dr. Nelligan and his amazing team for creating such a hands-on learning

experience for our students. Through the dissection of pig's eyes, students gained a deeper understanding of eye anatomy, and the critical role vision plays in overall health.

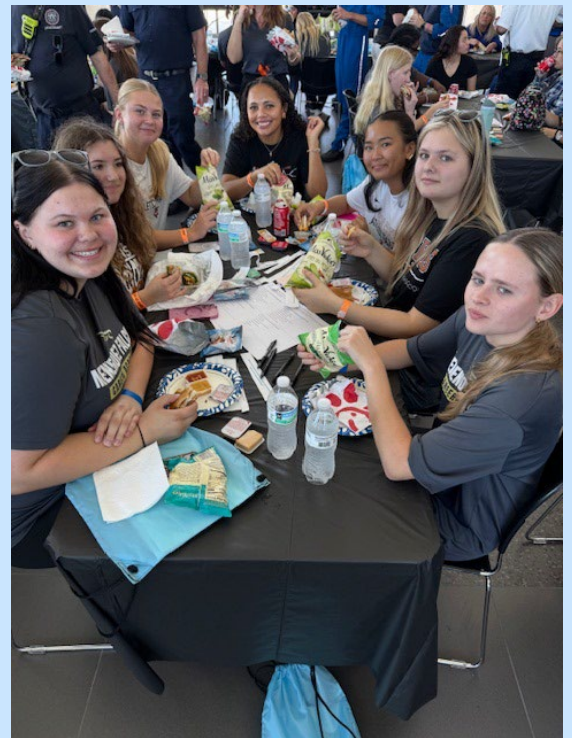
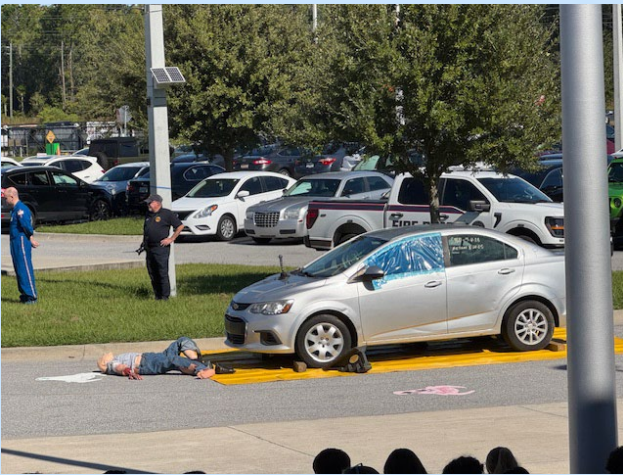
The Eye Center of St. Augustine continues to show its commitment to our community and the future of healthcare by generously donating time, expertise, and resources to make this opportunity possible.



Uniting Schools for Safer Roads!

Students from the Health Academies at PMHS and TCHS came together for an unforgettable morning focused on the dangers of distracted driving. They witnessed a realistic crash simulation complete with EMTs, fire rescue teams, and even a dramatic Life Flight helicopter landing for a full-scale rescue experience!

The day didn't stop there—students then joined an inspiring panel discussion with healthcare heroes, gaining firsthand insight into the critical roles these professionals play in saving lives. This powerful event wasn't just educational—it was an eye-opening experience that will leave a lasting impact on every student who attended.





Thank You, SJRSC!

We are so grateful to St. Johns River State College for taking the time to speak with our Health Foundations classes and support their preparation for the CMAA exams. Our Health Science II students have been diving into the world of insurance — but not in the boring, textbook way! Students loved hearing real-world stories and left with a deeper understanding of how insurance impacts the healthcare system today. Health insurance is a major component of this certification, and hearing directly from an outside expert provided our students with valuable, real-world insight that truly enriches their learning experience.

Your partnership helps empower future healthcare professionals with the knowledge they need to succeed—thank you for investing in their education and future!



Students in our CTSO club HOSA supported University of St Augustine for Health Sciences in the Walk to Defeat ALS. Thank you to all who help bring awareness and donations to this great cause.

HOSA: Spirit, Service, and Celebration!



HOSA has been doing BIG things this month! During HOSA Week, members showed off their school spirit with themed dress-up days that filled the halls with energy and pride. The celebration wrapped up with a sweet dessert party during lunch that everyone loved. To give back to the people who support us every day, members made heartfelt appreciation cards for our school nurses and teachers during our monthly HOSA meeting. It was a meaningful way to honor the amazing staff who help keep our school community thriving. And last but certainly not least, our students attended the First Coast Region Fall Conference, where they proudly participated in the induction of our brand-new HOSA regional officers. It was an inspiring moment for all involved and a great kickoff to an exciting year ahead!



Breaking Records and Leading the Nation!

Our incredible Business Academy students have achieved something truly historic—they placed **#1 in the nation** for the **highest sales EVER** from a single Spirit Box machine! This student-led enterprise isn't just about selling—it's about innovation. Working hand-in-hand with our Menendez Merch school store, these future business leaders have taken retail education to the next level by adding an online store feature, creating a true, real-world retail experience.

Special recognition goes to our instructor Tim Davidson and our standout students: Sophie Harrison, Liam Taylor, AJ Grueser, Dominique Brown, Zach Brown, Jas Williamson, Clarence Hughes, Dean Coelho, and Lexie Boland, Alex Abella and Johnny Harris. Your leadership and creativity are making a real impact.

StudentSuccess #Entrepreneurship #BusinessAcademy #SpiritBox #MenendezMerch #HandsOnLearning #FutureLeaders





Our creative leader Lexi!



[Click to go directly to our store](#)



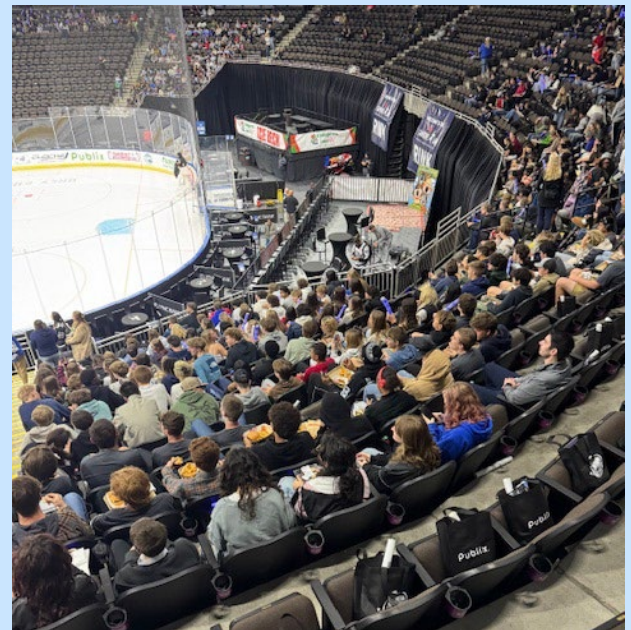
Making Waves for a Cleaner Coast!

Our amazing FBLA students spent their Saturday giving back to the community—and the planet—by cleaning up our local beaches! Armed with gloves and determination, they collected trash to beautify our shoreline and protect the wildlife that calls it home. Every piece of litter removed makes a difference, and these students proved that leadership isn't just about business—it's about caring for the world around us



Learning Beyond the Classroom!

Two of our amazing academies—Business and Architecture—teamed up for a day of networking, teamwork, and fun at an Iceman hockey game! Experiences like this show that education isn't just about books and projects—it's about building connections, taking a break, and enjoying time with friends for a well-rounded student life.



The highlight of the trip! Our very own Mr. Hendricks stole the show! Selected to take a shot on center ice, he nailed it on the first try and scored a prize pack!



Our new Sports Marketing classes take a tour of Flagler College to learn about their sports marketing degree options.

2025 Academy Industry Certifications

Course	Certification
Business and Entrepreneurial Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Entrepreneurship and Small Business
Management and Human Recourses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project Management Ready
Business Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project Management Ready
Drafting 1 Drafting 2 Drafting 3 Drafting 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Autodesk Certified User: AutoCAD• Autodesk Certified User: Revit for Architecture• Autodesk Certified user: Inventor
Health Science Foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Certified Medical Administrative Assistant-CMAA
EKG-Electrocardio Tech	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Certified EKG Technician-CET
Allied Health/Medical Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Certified Patient Care Technician Assistant-CPCT-A
Sports Recreation and Entertainment Essentials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social Media Strategist

All students have the opportunity to earn Florida Ready to Work Soft Skill credentials.

Industry certification exams not only help our students be career ready they may count as college credits! Make sure your future college or university knows about the certifications you have earned. Click here to learn more: [Earning College Credits](#)

Pedro Partners

Thank you for your partnership with our students. These businesses provide industry mentors, guest speakers, job shadowing, internships, and supply donations to our students.

If you or a business you know would like the rewarding experience of helping our students, who will be the future industry leaders, please reach out to our career specialist: Kristina Bransford at Kristina.Bransford@stjohns.k12.fl.us or call at 904-547-8681.

