

Academy News

January 2026

Pedro Menendez High School

Volume: 3 Issue: 15



Health 1 students are enthusiastically exploring the fascinating nervous system and discovering how it powers the human body. In this unit, students are learning how the brain, spinal cord, and nerves work together to control movement, thoughts, and reactions. Through hands-on activities, engaging discussions, and real-world connections, students are gaining an appreciation for how quickly and efficiently the nervous system sends messages throughout the body. This exciting unit has sparked curiosity and deepened students' understanding of how the nervous system supports daily activities, learning, and overall health.

Health 2 students are actively preparing for the Certified Medical Administrative Assistant (CMAA) certification exam as they approach spring break. Throughout the course, students have built a strong foundation in essential healthcare administrative skills, including professionalism and communication, medical law and ethics, patient interactions, scheduling, billing processes, and medical office procedures. As they review and apply this knowledge, students are demonstrating confidence, focus, and a growing readiness for real-world healthcare environments. This preparation period highlights their hard work and commitment as they work toward earning an industry-recognized certification that supports future academic and career success.

EKG students have recently completed their EKG acquisition videos, marking an important hands-on milestone in their training. This experience allowed students to actively practice proper lead placement, patient preparation, and accurate data collection—skills that are essential in real-world clinical settings. By applying their knowledge in a practical and engaging way, students are strengthening their confidence and technical competence. Mastery of EKG acquisition is a critical skill in healthcare, and this hands-on experience plays a vital role in preparing students to deliver accurate, high-quality patient care. Next, students will begin learning EKG interpretation, where they will analyze heart rhythms and patterns to better understand cardiac functions and recognize potential abnormalities.

Allied Health students have just wrapped up their hospital rotations, gaining valuable hands-on experience in a real healthcare setting. These rotations gave students the chance to see patient care in action, build practical skills, and learn directly from healthcare professionals. A big thank you to UF Health St Johns Hospital for welcoming our students and supporting this meaningful learning experience. As they move forward, students are now beginning Patient Care Technician (PCT) certification training, where they will learn essential hands-on skills such as taking vital signs, assisting with daily patient care, and supporting nurses and clinical staff.



Our students recently had the opportunity to hear guest speakers from First Coast Technical College (FCTC), who shared valuable insights about nursing as a career and the exciting possibilities for future education in healthcare. Students learned about the pathways to becoming a nurse, the skills and dedication required, and the many opportunities available

in this rewarding field. A special thank-you to FCTC for taking the time to speak with our students and inspiring them to explore careers in healthcare and beyond!



The HOSA Regionals Competition took place on Saturday, January 10th at Toco High School, where our students showcased their knowledge and skills in healthcare and medical sciences with pride! We want to congratulate all of the students who participated for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence—you made us so proud. A huge thank-you to Toco High School for hosting this exciting event

and providing a great environment for students to showcase their skills and knowledge, and to the teachers and volunteers whose support made the day possible. It was an inspiring day celebrating teamwork, leadership, and the future of healthcare!





HOSA students recently had an unforgettable field trip to Epcot during the 2026 EPCOT International Festival of the Arts! Students had a blast exploring the park's innovative exhibits, enjoying the festival's creative displays, and participating in hands-on activities. The day was full of excitement, fun, and memorable experiences that celebrated their hard work in HOSA. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn, be inspired, and make memories that will last long beyond the trip!





VyStar | Academy of Business

Pedro Menendez High School



Our Business Academy Students Present



Is Now *Online!*

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



ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY PEDRO MENENDEZ HIGH SCHOOL

Spreading holiday cheer was in full swing as our ACE mentors kicked off the morning by serving a warm, festive breakfast to our hardworking ACE students. Their enthusiasm set the tone for a memorable celebration of community and support. A heartfelt thank-you to all our mentors for making moments like these possible.



The excitement didn't stop there. Four ACE alumni returned to share their journeys, offering inspiring stories about how the program shaped their paths after graduation. Their encouragement and real-world insight gave our current students a motivating glimpse into what their own futures could hold

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.

