

Academy News

March/April 2026

Pedro Menendez High School

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COMPETITION SEASON FLIES HIGH FOR OUR FALCONS



Congratulations to our SkillsUSA students for earning first and second place at the state competition. Dalton Reed will advance to represent us at the national level in June. We are incredibly proud of all our students, including Owen Stavis, Melanie Patterson, Alexia Gottschalk, and Evan Mastropaola. Their dedication to architectural drafting is truly impressive and reflects countless hours of hard work. Best of luck to Dalton at Nationals, we are cheering you on and hope you bring home another gold.



**Technical Drafting
High School**

Gold Camilo Sanchez
Cypress Bay High School

Silver William De Jongh
Mount Dora High School

Bronze Henry Tam
Pedro Menendez High School

Falcons continue to fly high by taking home third in the state in Technical Drafting. Way to go Henry Tam!



ACE MENTOR PROGRAM

ARCHITECTURE • CONSTRUCTION • ENGINEERING



Congratulations to our ACE students who took first place in their modular classroom presentation. Opal Compton, Greyden Rinnert, Aidan Smith, Ben Buyers and Evan Benzenberg

Thank you to all of our student competitors.

A special thank you to our mentors working with teams to prepare them for their competitions.



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Pedro Menendez High School

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Our Business Academy Students Present

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Thank you to our volunteers, Chris Brown of Geico, Mary Jane Johnson of Cady Studios and Mike Janzen of Fast Signs of St. Augustine; whose time and energy made our Reality Fair an unforgettable success for our students. Throughout the event, students stepped into the world of adulthood as they were randomly assigned a career and family scenario, challenging them to navigate the realities of personal budgeting. From everyday utilities to car insurance, childcare costs, transportation, and more, students experienced firsthand what it truly takes to balance responsibilities and make smart financial decisions. The day was eye-opening, engaging, and filled with valuable lessons that will stay with them long after the fair ended.





Thank you to the SJCSO for an amazing FBLA field trip to visit their command center. Students had a behind the scenes tour to learn all the hard work that goes into keeping our county safe.



Congratulations to Ms. Jones's senior class for finishing the year strong with a remarkable **100% pass rate** on the Certified Patient Care Technician certification exam! We are incredibly proud of each student's dedication, perseverance, and hard work. We wish them all continued success as they embark on the next exciting chapter of their journey after graduation.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY - SS
(INDIVIDUAL)-26

hosa

- 5 Amelia Sanchez - Hialeah Gardens High School
- 4 Abhinav Krishnan - American Heritage School
- 3 Lauren Sullivan - Palm Harbor University High School
- 2 Elizabeth Lucas - Belleview High School
- 1 Olivia Brown - Pedro Menendez High School



Way to go Olivia Brown taking first in the state for occupational therapy at the HOSA competition. We are so proud of you! Good luck at international competition, bring home another gold!

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.

