



4 SJC high schools show up in Florida's top 100, with PVHS ranked highest

By Travis Gibson
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St. Johns County has four of the 100 best public high schools in Florida, according to U.S. News & World Report's 2019 Best High Schools rankings released Tuesday.

Of the seven public high schools in St. Johns County, Ponte Vedra High School earned the highest spot on the list, ranking 29th in Florida and 364th in the nation. Creekside High School (34), Bartram Trail High School (44) and Nease High School (55) all placed in the Top 100 in the state.

"I think it makes everyone proud to see St. Johns County schools on that list," St. Johns County School District superintendent Tim Forson. "That is kids performing at a very high level."

Nearly every public high school, more than 23,000 schools nationwide, were analyzed by U.S. News for the ranking.

"The highest ranked U.S. public schools in U.S. News & World Report's 2019 Best High Schools rankings are those whose attendees demonstrated outstanding outcomes above expectations in math and reading state assessments, passed a diverse array of college-level exams and graduated in high proportions," U.S. News wrote in a statement. U.S. News used weighted scores across six indicators of school quality, then computed for each school a single zero to 100 overall score reflective of performance across these metrics.

"What it does it reaffirms what we are doing. Those rankings are about accelerated academic performance so it reaffirms that we have the right programs in place and the right opportunities in place for children to be successful," Forson said.

St. Augustine High School was ranked No. 276 out of 1,081 high schools ranked in Florida while Pedro Menendez High School came in at No. 284. The St. Johns County School District has ranked first in the state out of 67 districts in total school accountability points for the past nine years and is one of only two districts in Florida with a grade of "A" for eight years in a row.

Looking at neighboring counties, Duval has five schools ranked in the top 100 in Florida: Stanton College Prep at #5 (47 nationally), Paxon High School (23), Darnell Cookman Middle/High School (24), Douglas Anderson School of the Arts (25) and River City Science Academy (91). Clay county had one school in the top 100 in the state — Fleming Island High (72) — while Putnam and Flagler Counties failed to crack the top 200 in Florida.

Florida ranked 6th in the nation with nearly 37 percent of its high schools finishing in the top 25 percent in the nation, behind Massachusetts, Maryland, California, Connecticut and New Jersey.