



My News 13

Pair of Flagler high schools ranked among best in the nation

By Brittany Jones, Reporter

FLAGLER COUNTY -- A pair of Flagler County high schools have been named among the best in the nation, according to U.S. News and World Report.

Matanzas, Flagler Palm Coast high schools given silver, bronze medals

U.S. News ranks schools based on several criteria, adding graduation rates this year

The newsmagazine recently awarded Matanzas High a silver medal for the third year in a row, and Flagler Palm Coast High was given a bronze, the second in as many years.

It's determination from Matanzas High students such as Sekrot Pond that's allowed the school to rank high among the best.

"Definitely (put in) a lot of studying and hard work on both ends, students, teachers and administrators' part," Pond said. "I worked days and nights, up all night just to try to finish my work."

Matanzas Principal Earl Johnson couldn't be prouder of his school.

"This is something that has been going on for a very long time, and I like where we are and that we're going in the right direction," Johnson said.

U.S. News and World Report gives medals based on a pool of more than 20,000 schools ranked on their performance on state assessments, student readiness for college and, for the first time, graduation rates.

Johnson said pushing AP classes plays a big role in the accomplishment.

"We're going to be No. 1. We will be the No. 1 school in the nation. We will be gold," Johnson said.

But Pond, a soon-to-be Ivy League college student, won't be there to witness it, though he's been a part of the medal-winning school for the past four years. He still will be rooting for his school and has faith it can reach its goal.

"I think they will actually improve upon this rank and they will get better, because a lot of the teachers actually care, a lot of the administrators care," Pond said.

Read the full U.S. News and World Report [HERE](#)