SMU Football Selects A Student-Made Helmet Design For The Spring Game
ESD seventh-grader Annabella S.'s artwork will be displayed on April 5.

For the second consecutive year, Southern Methodist University partnered with Children's Health to sport custom-made helmets designed by patient ambassadors for the 2024 Spring Football Game. As this tradition honors the resilience, strength, and courage of youth with medical conditions, ESD is proud to share that seventh-grade student Annabella S., Class of 2029, won this year's art competition.

"This year, I was chosen as a patient ambassador for Children's Health. Whenever an opportunity like this comes up, they'll email you and say, 'Hey, you can submit your work, and it might be chosen by SMU to put on their helmets,'" Annabella explained.

As [patient ambassador](#), Annabella is invited to participate in various activities that support and bring awareness to Children's Health and their community partnerships, such as representing the medical center on other organizational memorabilia, products, signage, and more. With her natural artistic ability, Annabella was inspired to showcase Children's Health in a creative, fun, and intentional way.

"It's a really cool and special opportunity to design a helmet for the Spring Game," Annabella expressed. There were a few things I wanted on the helmet. I wanted red, white, and blue, and something to represent Children's Health, so I added the red balloon. I also wanted the Mustang to be red because I feel like when I see it, it's normally red."

Once all designs were submitted, the SMU football team and Head Coach Rhett Lashlee reviewed and voted on which reimagined helmet they gravitated toward the most. Shortly thereafter, Annabella's family was notified that her artwork was selected and will be made into a decal for all players to wear on their helmets Friday, April 5, at Highland Park High School, where the game will begin at 6:30 p.m. Join our community in congratulating Annabella on her artistic prowess!