

Emma Thues Wins the 2024 LHSAA Raising Cane's Prep Classic Poster Contest

Emma Thues, a talented young artist from Germany, has made her mark in Louisiana as the winner of the 2024 LHSAA Raising Cane's Prep Classic Poster Contest. Her artwork was selected from over 200 entries, a remarkable achievement that highlights her creativity and determination.

Emma's journey to this milestone began long before she picked up her art supplies. As a foreign exchange student, Emma chose to leave her family and familiar surroundings to spend her junior year at Rapides High School in Lecompte, La. The process started with an online profile that was shared with host families. Once a match was made with Sharon Durrett and Mitch Manuel, communication began, and Emma's adventure in the U.S. took shape.

"There are big differences between school life in Germany and here," Emma explains. "In Germany, schools focus entirely on learning, and there are no outside activities, sports, or fun events for students. Here, it's completely different, and I love being part of everything." This vibrant and welcoming environment, paired with her love for art, allowed Emma to thrive in a new culture.

Her winning poster is a testament to her artistic passion, which she describes as a mix of self-expression, competition, and creating joy for others. "I create art to have something I can keep and to be satisfied with my work," Emma shares. LHSAA Executive Director, Eddie Bonine, was pleased to call Emma and share with her the good news. "It is so cool! Out of over 200 entries, mine was selected. My Mama is so proud."

Despite being far from home, Emma has found a sense of belonging in her host community. She appreciates the friendliness of the people and has made many friends. "People here are much friendlier to people they don't know," she observes. While she misses her family back in Germany, she has no regrets about coming to the United States. One of her favorite aspects of the experience? "I love learning about the culture—especially the food!"

In addition to her artistic accomplishments, Emma is deeply involved in extracurricular activities. She's a member of the girls' soccer team, practices martial arts and self-defense, participates actively in her church, and enjoys cooking and drawing.

Looking ahead, Emma dreams of becoming a detective. Though she's still deciding where to attend college, her drive and ambition make it clear that she's destined for great things.

Supported by her host family, Sharon Durrett and Mitch Manuel, and her parents, Sandra and Oliver Thues, Emma has embraced this transformative year with enthusiasm and

gratitude. Her success in the 2024 LHSAA Raising Cane's Prep Classic Poster Contest is just one highlight in a year filled with growth, learning, and achievement.

Congratulations, Emma, on your outstanding accomplishment and for bringing your unique perspective and talent to Louisiana!