**Arkansas State Winner – Elementary Division**

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The Stock Market Game is fun and introduced me to how the stock market works. I was able to recommend stocks to my parents and overall, it was worth it. While I was playing, I learned about many companies I had never heard of and was surprised by how some of the companies I know are doing.

In the start of the game, we chose to focus mainly on companies like Meta, and other high-risk, high-reward businesses. We were trying to get ahead of the game, and then be able to stay that way. Our strategy worked, for the most part, until Meta went down significantly. At that point we lost a lot of money, and time. We still had enough money to be in the game though, and quickly sold the companies that weren't doing well.

Our portfolio was doing amazingly, and all our investments had paid off, until nearly all of our companies went down and we were pushed back about 10 places. We finally found some companies that would get us a pretty good income, and not have as much of a chance to backfire. We bought lots of shares of those companies and kept our footing in about twentieth place for a while. Then, the experts came in and dominated the first twenty places in a matter of days. Our group was pushed all the way back to fiftieth place and was forced to take some desperate measures, such as buying fifty shares of companies we had just found.

By 2030 if I had $25,000, I would invest most of it in Coin, and Meta, though I would have to do a lot more stock market surfing to find stocks that are going to do well in the long term. I would like to be able to invest so smartly, so I could donate lots of money to animal shelters across the U. S. This may be a hard goal, but I think it would relieve some of the stress the animals and I have.

Our portfolio had a variety of stocks from different industries that were very different from each other, because we did this, we were able to stay in one place. We didn’t diversify at the start of the game though, and we fell back 30 places because of that. If I do what we did with our portfolio in the game, I could get a lot of money in just a matter of about one year or more. This could happen because I wouldn’t lose much money, and I would earn a lot of money, because of how diverse the portfolio is.

Here are some tips and tricks to help YOU in the stock market. First, have a diverse portfolio, meaning if one industry goes down you won’t have to worry as much. Next, try to buy stocks of companies that look like they're about to spike. Finally, try to buy companies that have a very low price, meaning that if they only cost $0 - $100, they may become famous one day, and go up significantly. I wish you luck in your next stock market adventure!