

## Maryland Middle School State Winner Spring 2022

Essay ID: 87734

Student: Sarah P.

Teacher: Amanda Price

School: Northern Middle School

Prior to playing The Stock Market Game, I had absolutely no clue about stocks. Yes, I knew that they help you financially, there was an app on my phone, and it was something my dad talks about a lot on the phone especially with my uncle, but other than that I was clueless. Then I joined the Stock Market Game. I soon learned that by purchasing stocks I could be part owner of a company. I also learned that by looking at graphs of some company's earnings I could tell how much money they were making and predict their future gains so that I could benefit from it and gain money myself. However, this season I realized how current events could also impact the futures of companies either harshly or significantly.

Stocks can make a significant impact on anyone willing to make the investment. However, there are risks connected with the stock market. One day you'll see that the company is doing great, and the next hour the company could have dropped five to ten cents. On the other hand, by investing in the stock market, you could have the opportunity to make 20% on your investment within an hour. You must be willing to analyze company earnings and understand the importance of their quarterly reports, to get these benefits. While companies overall benefit by selling their stocks, the market gives people the opportunity to invest in the companies of their choice and there is a lot of freedom in that.

If I was given \$100,000 to invest in my future, there are two companies that got my attention during the Stock Market Game that my team and I researched. First is Palantir Technologies Incorporation. Palantir protects your personal information from cyber-attacks when on the web or just playing your favorite game. They are a software company that allows private companies to integrate their data without the fear of being attacked online. Online shopping is important right? By investing in this company, I will be helping protect people's private information around the world. This will give individuals less anxiety when shopping online. Currently, this technology is being used by the government to track terrorists, and the spread of the Corona virus. This company is brand new and seeing what has been happening in Ukraine citizens can feel safe. Within the next 30 years I predict this company will project even more gains.

Additionally, I would invest in Space Exploration (SpaceX) Technologies Corporation. This company provides space transportation services and communications. SpaceX puts satellites into orbit and delivers cargo to the international space station. I believe that space is the next frontier because Elon Musk is looking into putting greenhouses on Mars. Musk has a never give up mentality that makes me want to invest in his company because I know he will be successful. Advances in science and technology have a history of benefiting the average person. Recently the company developed a satellite internet constellation that will provide commercial internet service. With Elon looking at the stars, he too believes space travel can soon become the next reality.

If I did not play the Stock Market Game, I would not know that these companies existed and how they could benefit my future.