



Maryland State InvestWrite Winner – Middle School

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During the time I have been participating in the Stock Market Game, I have had a great classroom experience. My team was mostly made up of my friends. Sadly, they weren't always a great help when researching stocks to buy but I made it work. I have learned plenty about the stock market and what to look for when purchasing a stock like PE ratio, PEG, Beta, etc. One event that impacted on one of the decisions I made in buying some stocks was when we went to Salisbury University to look at their finance department. The professor showed us how to compare the data of two different stocks from the same industry to see which was a better buy. For example, we were told to find the PE ratio for each stock. I discovered that Microsoft was a good stock to buy because the PE ratio was 35.8. Since I purchased Microsoft, it has been steadily making us money. The PE ratio has gone from 35.8 to 36.07, this is a 0.27 increase since the time I bought it. This means that the stock made money because the PE ratio is relative to its earnings.

Throughout the time I have been a part of the Stock Market Game my portfolio has grown to 11 purchased stocks. There have been many profitable stocks and a few losing stocks. Overall, my portfolio is not the greatest but it isn't the worst. One of the stocks that I bought was Meta Platforms. We chose to buy this just to see what it would do and it ended up losing us money for a few weeks. This was not a smart buy but at the time we didn't know what to look for. In the end, we were able to sell it for a profit but it was still very risky.

I think my performance was impacted positively because I learned a lot about how to tell whether I should buy a stock. By participating in the Stock Market Game, I have learned new skills that I can use to make real money in the stock market. For the most part, every stock we bought made us money. Only one stock ended up losing money for quite a while and that was Meta Platforms. We bought stocks in energy, biopharmaceutical, technology, and engineering. We did this so that if one stock lost us money then we wouldn't lose everything because of that industry. I think that the technology stocks performed the best because when we bought them, they were buying other companies. For example, when we bought Microsoft, it was buying Activision which was a huge deal.

A personal goal that I would like to achieve in 10 years would be to afford a nice desktop computer so that I could further my technological abilities to help me create a business. If I had a \$10,000 portfolio to invest, then I would begin by researching the most profitable companies. By doing this, I would know what companies to look out for. I would then compare all these companies to see which is the most profitable to invest in. This is what I did when making my portfolio. The most profitable stock I bought was Jacobs Solutions. When I sold the stock, I made a \$13,000 profit. Although I wouldn't have \$100,000 to spend like during the game, I would have \$10,000. This would mean that instead of investing \$15,000 in each stock like before, I would have to invest \$1,500 if I wanted to invest the same percentage. This stock would be put into a long-term portfolio to help me reach my goal because it is recommended to buy it for a long-term investment, and it is on track to profit at least \$150,000 next year if it continues gaining at the current rate. I would invest in three or four stocks if a stock is still doing well after I sell it, then I would invest the same amount as before back into it. By doing this, I will be able to reach my goal of \$1,000 in the stock market because, after only three weeks, Jacobs Solutions had profited \$13,000. It is almost double what I had invested in just a matter of weeks.

In conclusion, if I were to have a \$10,000 portfolio, I would do these things to reach my goal of a nice desktop computer in order to create a business. I have learned these skills throughout the time that I have participated in the Stock Market Game. These skills have allowed me to spot profitable stocks when looking for things to buy. If I had not gone on the field trip to Salisbury, I probably wouldn't have learned as many skills as I did. If you were to have a \$10,000 portfolio, how would you invest it?