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ASMSA students net over $1 million in stock market simulation

Southside High School, Fort Smith, takes home yearlong 1st place

**LITTLE ROCK–** GameStop wasn’t just on the minds of Wall Street investors this spring. It proved to be a controversial investment, and learning opportunity, for students competing in the 2020-21 Stock Market Game™. The investment simulation competition is facilitated each year by Economics Arkansas.

For the spring semester from the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts (ASMSA), the overall winning team netted $1,151,345.44, an amount unheard of since the game’s start in 1999 in Arkansas. A favorite of the winning team’s portfolio? GameStop.

The Stock Market Game™ challenges students in grades 4-12 to grow a hypothetical $100,000 portfolio over 13 weeks each fall and spring semester or the whole school year. The winners of each session receive cash prizes, awards, and, traditionally, public recognition during an awards luncheon at the end of the school year. A luncheon was not held in 2021 due to the COVID-19 public health crisis. The spring session ran from January 11 through April 9; the yearlong session, from September 8, 2020, through April 16, 2021.

Students from Southside High School in Fort Smith took home the top prize for the yearlong session this year.

The spring 2021 and the year-long 2020-21 winners, listed by region and division, are:

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| **Economics Arkansas** | | | |
| **The Stock Market Game™ | Spring 2021 1st Place Winners** | | | |
|  | | | |
| **Elementary** | **School** | **Advisor** | **School District** |
| Region 1 | Jones Elementary School | Lynn Massey | Springdale |
| Region 2 | Poyen Elementary School | Janet Wallace | Poyen |
| Region 3 | Texarkana GT | Liz Carter | Texarkana |
| Region 4 | Judsonia Elementary School | Kerry Daughety | Riverview |
| Region 5 | Forest Park Elementary School | Jason Finney | Little Rock |
| Region 6 | Hardin Elementary School | MaryBeth Passmore | White Hall |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Junior High** | **School** | **Advisor** | **School District** |
| Region 1 | Lakeside Junior High School | Justin Brantley | Springdale |
| Region 2 | Sheridan High School | Allison Michau | Sheridan |
| Region 3 | Dierks School District | Paula Stapp | Dierks |
| Region 4 | White County Central Middle School | Barbara Henry | White County Central |
| Region 5 | Pinnacle View Middle School | Graham Goodloe | Little Rock |
|  |  |  |  |
| **High School** | **School** | **Advisor** | **School District** |
| Region 1 | Bergman High School | Richard Quattlebaum | Siloam Springs |
| Region 2 | Danville High School | Jessica Carroll | Danville |
| Region 3 | Columbia Christian School | Victoria Allison |  |
| Region 4 | Trumann High School | Kristin Austin | Trumann |
| Region 5 | Baptist Preparatory | Angela Hopkins |  |
| Region 6 | White Hall High School | Robbie Stewart | White Hall |
|  |  |  |  |
| **After School** | **School** | **Advisor** | **School District** |
|  | Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts | Carl Frank |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Overall Winner** | Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts | Carl Frank |  |
| **Teacher Division** | Douglas MacArthur Junior High School | Al Tiner | Jonesboro |
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| **Economics Arkansas** | | | |
| **The Stock Market Game™ | 2020-2021 Yearlong 1st Place Winners** | | | |
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| **Elementary** | **School** | **Advisor** | **School District** |
|  | Brookland Middle School | Katie Garoutte | Brookland |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Junior High** | **School** | **Advisor** | **School District** |
|  | Pinnacle View Middle School | Graham Goodloe | Little Rock |
|  |  |  |  |
| **High School** | **School** | **Advisor** | **School District** |
|  | Southside High School | Casey Fischer | Fort Smith |
|  |  |  |  |
| **After School** | **School** | **Advisor** | **School District** |
|  | Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts | Carl Frank |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Overall Winner** | Southside High School | Casey Fischer | Fort Smith |
| **Teacher Division** | Little Rock Christian Academy | Susie Thompson |  |
|  |  |  |  |

Economics Arkansas, a non-profit educational organization that trains educators to integrate economics and personal finance concepts into the PreK-12 classroom curriculum, hosts the Stock Market Game™ program each school year as fall, spring, and year-long sessions.

This investment simulation competition for students in grades 4-12 challenges participants to grow a hypothetical stock portfolio of $100,000 over 13 weeks each semester or the duration of the school year. Teams of 1-5 students compete in the elementary (grades 4-6), junior high (grades 7-9), or senior high division (10-12) in one of the state’s six regions connected to a university center for economic education. Teachers serve as advisors who teach their students how to research and become aware of current events that affect the market. The teams with the highest total equity at the end of each session in each division and region receive cash and awards, such as medals, trophies, or banners.

Not only do students learn essential saving and investing principles, but they also hone their math, business, communication, economics, and analytical skills.

The Stock Market Game™ is owned by the Securities Industry Financial Markets Association Foundation (SIFMA Foundation) and franchised to Economics Arkansas since 1999. The average annual participation has grown to more than 15,000 students.

Financial support for the Stock Market Game™ program during the 2020-21 school year has been provided by the Arkansas Department of Education; the Arkansas Securities Department; First Financial Bank; Lou Graham; Bob Hamilton; Ray & Debra Hobbs; the Murphy Foundation; the Schmieding Foundation; the Walton Family Foundation; and the Union County Community Foundation.

**Economics Arkansas** (through the Arkansas Council on Economic Education) is a private, non-profit, non-partisan educational organization founded in 1962 by Dr. Arch Ford and led by Dr. Bessie B. Moore to promote economic literacy in Arkansas. Its mission is to equip PreK-12 schools with standards-based resources and professional development to teach economics, personal finance, and the free-enterprise system using practical, innovative, and inspiring methods so that Arkansas students may master an understanding of economics and personal finance and apply that knowledge for success in the free-enterprise system.

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