



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Team from Sparks Elementary earns statewide honor in yearlong Stock Market Game**

*Grade 4 students win first place elementary school award*

TOWSON, Md. – A team of Grade 4 students from Sparks Elementary School earned the 1<sup>st</sup> Place Elementary School award in the Maryland Council on Economic Education’s yearlong Stock Market Game.

The winning team, Team ZZ184, is comprised of students Benjamin Boxler, Raquel Okai, and Ryan Okai, and is advised by teacher Courtney Sheckells.

The team and its guests will be honored at the Maryland Council on Economic Education Student Achievement Awards Luncheon, to be held at Towson University on Wednesday, May 18.

The Stock Market Game™ uses an educational simulation to teach students in Grades 4 – 12 and in college about stock markets and the American and global economies. Beginning with a hypothetical \$100,000, students build and maintain a virtual stock portfolio. The program is designed to strengthen students’ math, language arts, research, and critical thinking skills.

The yearlong program won by Team ZZ184 began in September 2021 and ended on April 8, 2022.

*(Editor’s note: A photo of the winning team accompanies this release. Pictured left to right: Teacher Courtney Sheckells, Raquel Okai, Ryan Okai, and Benjamin Boxler)*

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