**Student:** Anisa Proctor

**Course Title:** 7th Grade Science, Family 1

**Teacher:** Aaron Dobie

**Class Description**:

This summer in 7th grade science we focused on the studies of life science and biology, the subjects Denver Public School students study in the seventh grade. Under the umbrella of biology we began the summer with photosynthesis – the process by which plants make their own food out of water, carbon dioxide and sun energy. We then studied food chains, food webs and how energy is transferred between different trophic levels – producer, primary consumer, secondary consumer, tertiary consumer – of the food chain. In addition to photosynthesis and food chains we learned some “how to” skills such as identifying experiments’ independent and dependent variables, graphing experimental data and labeling graphs’ x axis, y axis and title. Students got to record and graph their own data in experiments such as “Does a person’s head size affect their 40 yard dash time?” During the last week we synthesized all of the summer’s ideas into the “Solar Oven Experiment” where students created their own solar oven out of a pizza box, aluminum foil, saran wrap and tape in order to harness the sun’s power and cook pizzas and s’mores. The ovens got as hot as 180°F. In addition to cooking food we tested whether black ovens worked better than white ovens. Students kept track of their ovens’ internal temperatures and graphed the black ovens’ temperatures side by side to the white ovens’ temperatures to decide which colored oven was more effective. The black ovens’ worked better. Students had to complete a final packet for the “Solar Oven Experiment” and show an understanding of all parts of the scientific method – asking a question, making a hypothesis, writing experimental procedures, gathering materials, recording data, graphing the data and interpreting their graphs in a paragraph-style conclusion.

**Academic Performance**:

Anisa is someone who accomplishes what she puts her mind to. When she decides to focus on the task at hand she is nearly almost always successful. An example of this focus was apparent during the everyday family elective time when Anisa was very successful in solving the daily challenge problems. She had fun figuring out the logic puzzles, too.

In science Anisa did well understanding independent and dependent variables and always enjoyed the more hands-on/artistic projects we did such as diagramming photosynthesis and making 3-D representations of comets during our unit on astronomy.

The summer’s first test was on photosynthesis and while Anisa scored well I felt that with a little extra study time the night before she could have done even better. One thing that she could concentrate on in the 7th grade is to thoroughly go over the test material the night before the test. That extra refresher is often the difference between a good grade and an excellent grade.

Most of the time Anisa was alert and attentive in class and her love of learning shined through like the sun. I suggest that she take the most challenging classes possible in the 7th grade because she is surely capable of success. I have nothing but extremely high hopes and expectations for Anisa’s academic future.

**Behavior and Attitude**:

Anisa is a very social girl who has fun dancing and hanging out with her friends. For Anisa to be successful in the classroom she needs