**Student:** Gladys Aispuro

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

**Teacher:** Aaron Dobie

**Class Description**:

In 7th grade science this summer we focused on the study of biology, the subject 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 axes, y axes and titles. 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**:

Hsa is such a wonderful young man! With his extremely capable mind, talent for art and hilarious sense of humor, he was a total success in the classroom at Breakthrough. Hsa was very methodical about completing his homework every night and this practice helped him to do well on the 3 tests we took. We took a science pre-test on the third day of class and then took the same test again during the last week to guage student improvement. Hsa showed great improvement in making graphs and predicting future trends of graphs and his knowledge of the inputs and outputs of photosynthesis and the workings of the food chain also showed great improvement from the first test to the second test. He greatly enjoyed everything artistic that we did such as making diagrams of photosynthesis and creating a solar oven.

As his teacher I often had the feeling that Hsa knew the answers to most of the questions that I asked in class. However, it would have been nice for Hsa to share his ideas with the group more often. In the future I would like to see Hsa be more of a leader among his peers by raising his hand to either ask or answer questions and to share his ideas with the class more often.

**Behavior and Attitude**:

Hsa was very popular in his peer group because of his easy-going style and laughable demeanor. He was always very well behaved in class and was respectful of his peers.