**Student:** Htee Khu

**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**:

Hard-working, funny and pleasant to be around, Htee was an outstanding student this summer in science class. She was very faithful about doing her homework and wasn’t afraid to call her teachers with questions about the assignments. One of Htee’s main strengths lies in how she studies the night before tests. While many other students will glance at their notes once or twice the night before a test it was evident that Htee dedicated as much time as was necessary to make sure she understood the material inside and out.

As a class we took a scientific pre-test on the third day of class and then took the same test again during the last week to gauge the students’ improvement. Htee received a nearly perfect score on the post-test and demonstrated a greatly improved ability to make and label graphs and to make predictions about what will happen to the graphs in the future. This was awesome to see! Htee also gained a thorough understanding of the inputs and outputs of photosynthesis and the 4 parts of a food chain. She seemed to enjoy cooking food in her pizza box solar oven. I have complete confidence in Htee’s success in school in the future.

**Behavior and Attitude**:

Htee’s classroom behavior was impeccable. She was always attentive and on-task. Although very shy at asking questions at the beginning of summer, as the summer went on Htee gained the confidence to ask a question when she needed help or when something didn’t make sense. Sitting with her and her friends at lunch, I began to see Htee’s great sense of humor and awesome acting skills.