**Student:** Lenedra Martin-Cox

**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**:

Laughative, hard-working and spunky, Lenedra was a pleasure to teach this summer in science. With a perfect homework record it is apparent that Lenedra is an advocate for herself and is serious about her schoolwork. To this end, Lenedra is not afraid to tell her friends to be quiet in class. This showed a lot of maturity on her part and was helpful for me as a teacher to have a mini-disciplinarian out in the crowd helping my cause! Lenedra was well behaved in class and was always respectful of her peers and of the Breakthrough staff.

Academically, it was obvious that Lenedra studied for tests the night before. Many other students only briefly study the day of or do not study at all so Lenedra is very mature in this sense and it helped out her grades on the Photosynthesis Unit Test and the final Science Post-Test we took during the last week of school. I encourage her to bring this study habit with her into the 7th grade and beyond. One area that Lenedra could improve in is the organization of her binder and notes. If she took 10 minutes every week to organize her binder and consolidate her science notes then studying would become much easier for her because of all the necessary materials would be in one place. Also, I encourage her to continue to ask questions in class when she is confused or needs help. Sometimes Lenedra would get down on herself when she didn’t understand something. If she would have asked for help then she could stay happy all of the time.

I further encourage Lenedra to take the most challenging classes possible in middle school and high school because she is a very capable young woman and can achieve whatever she puts her mind to. Lenedra is a hard worker and intelligent person and I sincerely wish her the best of luck in the future.