**Student:** Lissette Uribe

**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**:

Lissette was a pleasure to teach this summer and I hope that she will come back next summer. I also hope that Francisco will come to Breakthrough too. Lissette is very artistic and most enjoyed the hands-on parts of science class: making pictures of photosynthesis, making models of comets and making solar ovens were her favorite activities.

Lissette was well behaved in class for the whole summer and was quiet during the first few weeks but gradually opened up and began to talk more by the end of summer. I encourage Lissette to raise her hand more often in class to ask questions and to answer questions that others ask. I also encourage Lissette to take the most challenging classes available in middle school and high school because she is very smart.

Lissette did her homework every night and was overall a good student. I look forward to seeing Lissette thrive in the next two summers here at Breakthrough Kent Denver.