PLEASE NOTE: This letter must be personalized by the school. Please review carefully before using.

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Enclosed you will find a summary of your student’s results on the South Dakota Science Assessment.

The South Dakota Science Assessment is administered annually to students in grades 5,8, and 11 to assess knowledge of the science content standards adopted in May 2015. This report summarizes the results of this assessment.

It is important to note that this assessment covers grade spans, not just the grade level when students were assessed. Instead of grade/subject specific standards, middle school standards are for the grade 6-8 grade span and high school standards address learning expectations for grades 9-12. The grade 5 assessment includes the 3-5 grade span standards so the three levels are comparable in terms of content expectations.

Here's what you need to know about the SDSA Reports:

* The report consists of the scale score and performance level your student received over the standards assessed. This score is shown along a color-coded continuum showing all 4 performance levels.
* Comparison scores are included so you can see how your student did compared to other students in your school as well as all students in your district who were assessed. If there is only one school in your district, then scores will be the same. If the School average is listed as N/A, that means that there are less than 10 students in the school who took the assessment. The scores give you an idea of how your student is performing within a larger context.
* The report also lists the SDSA Performance Level Descriptors and highlights your student’s level. The Performance Level Descriptors describe, in general, what students in that level know.

The annual state assessment is just one piece of the puzzle we look at in helping to prepare students for a successful academic experience and whatever lies beyond for them. Thank you for the privilege of educating your child, and please contact us if you have any questions about the reports.

Sincerely,