My philosophy of teaching science is to use hands’ on activities. The only way students are really going to learn is to experience science themselves. Science is all around us and the students need to realize and understand that. They need to be engaged and interested in what they are learning about. The best way to accomplish this is to guide them to asking questions and to try new things and ideas.

I will use the state’s standards to help me plan my units for the year. There are way too many standards to cover all of them equally so I will pick three to four specific units to focus on. In my three to four units I will have the standards I feel are most important. I will try to work as many as I successfully can into the various units. One thing I need to do is look at the standards and use them to help me plan for the year. I will also be flexible and realize lessons might not always go in the direction I plan because the students get interested or excited about something. This is a good thing if it happens and I now realize that.

Throughout the year I will use both informal and formal assessment. During the units and for most of the lessons I will use informal assessment. I will have checklists to mark specific things I see or do not see. While my students are working, I will walk around to observe them and to help them if needed. In my observations I will write down notes to remember things and use that information to help me plan for in the future. At the end of the units and sometimes for big lessons, I will use formal assessments. While I will give tests, that is not the only form of formal assessment I will use. I plan to have papers, projects, presentations, and other creative ways to fit my students’ learning needs.

I plan to have a lot of hands’ on activities and with that I will have a lot of supplies and materials. For passing out the materials and supplies, I will have special
helpers to help me and I will change the helpers every week or every couple of weeks. If there are supplies that need special care I will plan ahead to have a parent volunteer come in and help me pass out and handle the special materials and supplies. Another thing I plan to do is have the students work individually as well as in groups. I will plan ahead and try to mix it up so the students work with different classmates for different activities. For the groups, I will either pick them ahead of time, have them work with the people in their table group, or sometimes I might let them choose. Science can be a complicated thing and I think the students will benefit the most in learning it by working together in groups. I do also plan to have some activities where the students will work individually. In deciding whether to have an activity be individual or group work, I will look at all the possible options both types have to offer and pick the one I feel works best for my students. I do realize some students prefer to work alone and some prefer to work in groups and because of this I will try and give my students the choice as well.

It is very important to teach science because science is everywhere and such a big part of our lives. A lot of people don’t realize a certain thing is science and it is up to educators to realize this and teach science to our students. I plan to use science any chance I can get and I hope to be able to set an example for my colleagues, especially the ones who don’t see an importance in teaching and learning about science. Some ways I hope to set examples are by inviting their class to join my class for a big science activity, having bulletin boards of science up in the room and maybe even out in the hall, having my students do science projects and display them around the school, and by having science centers with different materials set up in the room. Since science is everyone it is easy to combine it with other lessons. Other educators don’t realize this and I hope to be
able to demonstrate and help them understand. I now realize how important it is to teach science and I hope to take this knowledge and help my colleagues realize it as well.

Before taking this class, I was very nervous about teaching science since I did not have the best experiences with it in school. My teachers had us learn about science by reading textbooks that I did not understand I do not remember doing many hands’ on activities. I now feel I have a lot of great ideas for teaching science to make it engaging and interesting for my students. Science is about discovery and I want my students to discover and be involved in their learning.