My philosophy of education is student-centered because I feel that students need more than a lecturing teacher in the front of the classroom. The ideas for my future career as a teacher relate to progressivism and social reconstructionism. I feel the purpose of schooling is to model life and develop problem-solving, communication, and decision making skills. Teachers need to teach students how to interact with people of all races, genders, and ethnicities so they can feel comfortable in any situation that they may encounter during life. Teachers should want students not only to learn the curriculum, but to also be able to relate everything they learn to their own life in order to better themselves.

 I believe that teachers should constantly be moving around the room, interacting with their students, individually and in groups. As a teacher, I will ask my students questions about activities to get them thinking critically about the content; an idea related to social reconstructionism. I want my students to be able to think about how the material they are learning relates to society and then be able to use this information in society as a form of service learning. I think teachers need to embrace technology as a way to help students gain knowledge about the world. Technology is a way to engage students with all different learning types and learning difficulties; students live in a technological world and that should include their education.

 Getting to know the students and their interests and needs is important to me so that every student feels welcomed and supported; the classroom is a much more positive place when students feel that they are the most important person in the room. I want my students to be excited to come into my classroom every day and learn. Each lesson I teach will be preplanned and made relevant to the student’s lives. I will place an emphasis on hands-on work because students are capable of learning by doing and experiencing. The curriculum should be based on critical thinking and be related to the interests, needs, and experiences of the students, not the set core information that is considered normal. My instructional methods will place critical thinking as a top priority because it forces students to think outside of the box. Cooperative learning is a high priority but learning from situations outside of school such as community service is important too because it relates school back to the child’s life.

 My emphasis as a teacher will not be placed on standardized testing because I feel that standardized tests give us a skewed view of students’ progress and learning. I will encourage my students to work together and communicate with each other to complete tasks. This doesn’t mean they don’t do individual work, it means that students bounce ideas off of each other as a way to get different perspectives about their learning. Everything students do will be relatable to the future because education is a system and each year, students should build on the previous year. Each grade should not be its own set up ideas.

 Student participation and group conversations are highly invited and complete control of the classroom is not necessary because that is when some children tend to stand out or be disruptive. My job as a teacher is to be a role model and a support system along with a teacher to the children. Kids need to be encouraged to dream big and be creative in everything they do because change is important and is necessary for mixing things up. Cooperative learning and critical thinking will be the forefront of my instructional techniques and lessons will be related to situations that my students my encounter. I want my students to be individuals that work together as a team to accomplish the game of learning.