Lauren Zaccaria  
Week 2 Assignment

**Pinterest Resource Hunt**  
[Lauren's Pinterest Board Link](#)

**About Pinterest:**

Pinterest, in my opinion, is an exceptional tool in education for sharing ideas, lessons, tips and tricks, classroom routines, decor, and science experiments. I utilize it quite often, professionally and personally. For example, I have created boards to pin Middle School Science activities and lessons and fun, hands-on activities for the summer camp that I coordinate. I find Pinterest to be very helpful with organizing ideas into categories and themes. Most recently, I have organized some of boards into more specific categories, to help with organization in a more detailed way. This has assisted me in preparing for the multiple classes that I teach and the camp that I coordinate. For example, in the past I have grouped all educational “pins” in one board, “MS Science”. Presently, I have new boards for decor ideas year to year, a special summer camp board, a STEM idea board, and a food science experiment board. These more specific boards have helped me to stay organized and find my pinned ideas quicker and more efficiently.

The newest board I have created, both for this assignment as well as for my actual classroom, is called “Graphic Organizers for Middle School” and is linked above. I love utilizing graphic organizers in my lessons, as they provide a visual experience in what is usually not a visual lesson, such as writing a lab report or a research paper. Additionally, I have many special education students entering my classroom in September, so it is important for me to use these types of tools to help differentiate my lessons for all types of learning styles. I found a wide variety of graphic organizers through my Pinterest search that I would love to use, purchase, or modify for my own students and in my classroom. I pinned many general and organizational graphic organizers, but tried to pin mostly science related ones or ones that could be adapted for use in my science classroom. I especially like the lab report organizer, the compare and contrast organizer, and organizers that help plan out persuasive/argumentative writing. These will all benefit both my teaching style and the learners in my classroom.

When using a tool such as a graphic organizer in class, it is an important practice for the classroom teacher to first model the usage of the tool to his/her students. The students should learn what is expected of them when using the tool so that they can get the most out of using it. It should be modeled, practiced many times, and then hopefully perfected by the student throughout the school year. Using certain graphic organizers routinely in the classroom should allow them to be completed more effectively by the students throughout the year.

With all of those positive attributes of Pinterest being described above, there are a few downsides to the website. Many times, I research a topic for lesson ideas and find what looks
like a wonderful lesson plan or project for my students to complete in class. However, upon opening the pin for more information, I find the link no longer works or the website has been shut down. Therefore, I get left in the dust, so to speak, with this great idea and no explanation behind it. That can be very disappointing at times! Another downside of Pinterest is when a pin link takes me to a Teachers Pay Teachers page. Don’t get me wrong, I love Teachers Pay Teachers and have gotten some really great ideas on that website. But, I don’t always want to or am allowed to purchase lesson plans! So I may find a great idea and not be able to learn more about it without paying money. I am glad that pins on Pinterest usually show they are linked to a Teachers Pay Teachers page before even clicking on it, however.

Other than those very few negative aspects, I feel as though Pinterest is a very valuable tool for teachers and any one who works with children. Parents would also find Pinterest useful as they may gain ideas of fun activities to do with their children on weekends and rainy days. I am grateful for Pinterest’s organization and plethora of ideas and lessons and love sharing my ideas with others as well. I would highly recommend the educational aspect of Pinterest to all teachers and parents and also for all those who are looking for ideas (from house decor to wedding flowers to how to build a chicken coop) to search using Pinterest. The possibilities are endless!