Advanced Band 8 (year-long): Woodwinds or Brass-Percussion provides an opportunity for students to continue the development of those skills needed to play a band instrument in a group activity. This is a performance-oriented class, requiring daily practice, with the band performing for the school, community and festival competition. Extra practices may be required. Students are expected to obtain an instrument through the school, a rental program, or on their own. There is an annual fee of $15.00 to cover sheet music and other expenses.

Keyboarding provides exposure to word processing and programs that benefit academic courses. There is a heavy emphasis on composing on the computer. This course is a middle school requirement.

Technology: Automation and Robotics Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform, and Lego Mindstorms NXT and EV3 Robots to design, build, and program real-world objects. Students will also learn about Communication Technology and Autodesk Inventor.

Chorus 8 (year-long) is a performing class. Students will continue to improve skills that are important for group & individual singing. All aspects of choral singing will be explored. Songs and activities will include music written in unison, two parts, and three parts. Lessons will focus on developing independent singing and music reading skills.

Guitar students will learn the basic skills of playing the guitar. Along with playing, the students will learn to read basic music notation for guitarists. Three areas of playing will include melody, chords, and bass. After school practice is required using the text and a school guitar. (A class fee of $10 provides for the student book and guitar usage.) Students are expected to play alone and with others.

Art 8 Students will use previously learned techniques in Understanding Art and new techniques to work on increasingly abstract, real-world design problems, individually and in design teams. Use of more sophisticated tools & materials will prepare students for high school level visual arts work in 2D & 3D art. Instruction will include career exploration in visual arts. In addition, students will be assigned written assignments in art history, criticism and aesthetics. Maintaining a portfolio/journal over the semester is required, which will be reviewed for a cumulative grade at the end of the semester.

Foundations of French & Spanish: This course is designed to be an introduction to French I and Spanish I. The course will include basic grammar and syntax, simple vocabulary, and the spoken accent so that students can read, write, speak, and understand the language at a basic level. Culture will also be introduced through the art, literature, customs, and history of the French and Spanish speaking people.

French I (year-long; High School Credit) is a beginning French course which introduces the four basic skills of a foreign language study: speaking, listening, reading and writing. This course also offers an introduction to French culture and customs in French speaking countries.

Spanish I (year-long; High School Credit) focuses on the development of the students’ communicative competence in Spanish and their understanding of the cultures of Spanish speaking countries. Students practice comprehension by reading, writing, listening and speaking the language in authentic situations.

Computer Solutions Students will be utilizing the computer as a problem-solving tool. A variety of projects incorporating word processing, database, presentation, and spreadsheet software will be included in this course. The use of computers in modern society, telecommunications, basic Internet safety, computer maintenance issues and workplace readiness skills will also be explored. (Keyboarding is a pre-requisite for this class.)