

Northwest Arkansas Education Service

Cooperative

January – March 2015

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*Advocating Opportunities for Gifted and Talented Students to grow and shine,*

**ARKANSAS GEMS**

Calendar

Jan. 15 ACE games 4 & 5 @ Fayetteville HS

Jan. 29 ACE games 6 & 7 @ Bentonville HS

Jan. 30 NWA GT Coordinators Meeting

Feb. 5 ACE games 8 & 9 @ Farmington

Feb. 7 AGQBA Jr. High Regionals @ Gravette

Feb. 12 ACE game 10 @ Life Way Christian

Feb. 17 / 19 ACE make-up game(s) if bad weather

Feb. 21 NWA Winter Chess @ Sonora MS

Feb. 23 ACE Championship @ Farmington

Feb. 25 – 27 AGATE Annual Conference in LR

Feb. 28 AGQBA Jr. High State Tournament

Mar. 7 OM Regional Tournament @ JBU

Mar. 14 AGQBA Sr. High Regionals @ Rogers HS

March 17 NWA GT Coordinators Meeting

March 17 Science Olympiad Planning Meeting

April and May have many academic contests scheduled for AGQBA, SO, OM, & Chess

Commentary

*The Gifted Education “BUZZ” being talked about in Northwest Arkansas for the New Year is* ***CHANGE.*** *Change inherently shares the mystery and challenge of what unknown outcomes will be coming our way. Currently Arkansas gifted program educators are dealing with:*

1. *How will the ADE commitment to Common Core impact gifted programming?*
2. *How will new laws for conducting teacher evaluations (TESS) affect teachers in gifted education because GT classes use different methods for instruction?*
3. *How will changes in the State of Arkansas political leadership impact schools. Historically, public education is perpetually seen as needing improvement. New leadership in Little Rock might result in new laws or funding changes that impact Gifted Education.*
4. *What will the ADE GT Program Evaluation cycle switching from every 3 years to 6 years affect GT coordinators? What challenges will be revealed maintaining 6 years of program data and delivery of quality services with such a long gap between monitoring visits?*