

Highlights:

The summer months are traditionally quiet for the NWA Gifted & Talented Specialist. Except for hosting summer professional development workshops relevant to Gifted Education and Pre-AP trainings, these are non-contract days.

This summer is unique because there is a change in leadership. Larry Driver is retiring from the NWAESC GT Specialist job and is being replaced by Dustin Seaton effective July 1. Both men have strived earnestly to make the transition of duties seamless. Serving local NWA school districts and meeting the differentiated needs of the advanced learner is a job that is taken seriously.

Education is constantly evolving and during this coming 2017-2018 school year the State of Arkansas has set ambitious Department of Education goals. Addressing the challenges of gifted education will be exciting for Dustin as he carries on the important work of being a GT Specialist at the NWA Education Service Cooperative and host of local NWA academic competitions.

Calendar

**July 31 & Aug. 1** Pre-APEnglish & Social Sciences Training Workshop

**Week of August 8** **– 11** Most NWA teachers attend Professional Development in-service days – beginning of 2017-2018 school year

**August 14** Start of school for most local students

**August 25**  NWA GT Program Coordinators attend state-wide ZOOM meeting at coop

**September 1** ACE coaches meeting

**September 4** Labor Day Holiday

**September 28 & 29** AAGEA Fall Conference at Harding University, Searcy

**October 4**  NWA GT Coordinators monthly meeting

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Northwest Arkansas Education Service

Cooperative

July – September 2017

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

**ARKANSAS GEMS**