

Friday, August 7

7:30—8:30 Continental Breakfast

8:30—9:00 Devotional and Testimony

9:00—9:45 Managing The Demands Anthony Hurst

10:00—10:45 **WORKSHOP SESSION IX**

(d) 40. Comparative Teaching*
Jonah Avina
Ray Bontrager
Verlin Miller

(e) 41. Trauma Children In The Classroom Anthony Hurst

10:55—11:55 Question and Answer Period

12:00 Lunch

Display, Idea & Resource Exchange:

Teachers, please don't keep all your good ideas and finds to yourself! Bring bulletin board sets, art projects, wall displays, motivational charts, helpful books, and other "educational enhancers" that have worked well for you. Come prepared to show, share, and exchange ideas and/or materials.



FOR GENERAL INFORMATION, contact

Conrad Smucker 541-760-0470 or smuckercon@gmail.com

We ask all attendees to follow the Biblical principles of modesty and simplicity by wearing loose clothing that covers well. Ladies, please wear a prayer veiling, socks, and footwear. Men, please wear long-sleeve, button up shirts and avoid blue jeans.

WFTI Board of Directors

Conrad Smucker, Joel Schrock, John Smucker,
Jason Derstine, Ed Bontrager Jr.

WFTI 2026

WFTI 2026

Eighteenth Annual Western Fellowship Teachers' Institute

Providing an organized way to edify, encourage, and equip Christian school teachers and school board members to give spiritual nourishment, provide academic excellence, and exercise proper administration in educating our children.

August 4-7, 2026

**Lighthouse Mennonite School
910 E 1st St.
Halsey, Oregon 97348**

Tuesday, August 4

7:30—8:30 Continental Breakfast
 8:30—9:00 Devotional and Orientation
 9:00—9:45 Understanding Your Role Anthony Hurst

10:00—10:45 WORKSHOP SESSION I

(d) 1. The Privilege of Teaching* Jonah, Ray, Verlin
 (b) 2. Respecting Established Culture Jonathan Erb
 (e) 3. Teachable Teachers Jonathan Miller
 (f) 4. The Serenity Prayer Ernest Zeiset
 (g) 5. Teaching With Vision Aaron Derstine
 (c) 6. Ladies- From Fear To Faith Valerie Hurst

11:00—11:45 Relationships Loren Kropf

12:00 Lunch
 1:20—2:00 Singing and Prayer Jonathan Miller

2:15—3:00 WORKSHOP SESSION II

(d) 7. Preparation Ray Bontrager
 (g) 8. 1st Grade Track* Rowena Swartzendruber
 (e) 9. English Middle Grades 3-6 Aaron Derstine
 (f) 10. English Upper Grades 7-12 Austin Martin
 (b) 11. Elementary Reading 3-6 TBD

3:15—4:00 WORKSHOP SESSION III

(d) 12. Presources* Jonah Avina
 (e) 13. Math Middle Grades 3-6 Larry Martin
 (f) 14. Math Upper Grades 7-12 Wes Bauman
 (g) 15. Culture Influence- Long-Term Teachers Jason Boss
 (b) 16. Technology in the Classroom Jaden Stoltzfus

4:10—4:40 **In 6 Minutes...**

Modeling The Master Teacher

The Compassionate Teacher Verlin Miller
 The Humble Teacher Willie Derstine
 The Courageous Teacher Jaden Stoltzfus
 The Honest Teacher Wes Bauman
 The Selfless Teacher Austin Martin

5:30 Supper

Organized Activity

Wednesday, August 5

7:30—8:30 Continental Breakfast
 8:30—9:00 Opening and Meditation
 9:00—9:45 The Effects Of Trauma On The Brain Anthony Hurst

10:00—10:45 WORKSHOP SESSION IV

(d) 17. Presentation* Jonah Avina
 (e) 18. Principles of Discipline Jonathan Erb
 (f) 19. Healthy Classroom Culture Willie Derstine
 (g) 20. First Aid Brian Smith
 (b) 21. Classroom Themes Verlin Miller
 (c) 22. Ladies— Laura Smucker

11:00—11:45 Relationships Loren Kropf

12:00 Lunch
 1:20—2:00 Singing and Prayer Jonathan Miller

2:15—3:00 WORKSHOP SESSION V

(d) 23. Procedures Verlin Miller
 (g) 24. 1st Grade Track* Rowena Swartzendruber
 (e) 25. English Middle Grades 3-6 Aaron Derstine
 (f) 26. English Upper Grades 7-12 Austin Martin
 (b) 27. Reading and Literature Upper Grades Jonathan Miller

3:15—4:00 WORKSHOP SESSION VI

(a) 28. Sustainable Teaching Career Jonah Avina
 (b) 29. Math Middle Grades 3-6 Larry Martin
 (9) 30. Math Upper grades 7-12 Wes Bauman
 (9) 31. First Aid Brian Smith

4:10—4:40 **In 7 Minutes**

I Learned About Teaching From That

Jonathan Miller
 Jonah Avina
 Larry Martin
 Aaron Derstine

Idea and Resource Exchange
 5:30 Supper

7:15—8:00

Marvels Of The Human Brain

Anthony Hurst

Thursday, August 6

7:30—8:30 Continental Breakfast
 8:30—9:00 Opening and Meditation
 9:00—9:45 Fulfilling The Expectations Anthony Hurst

10:00—10:45 WORKSHOP SESSION VII

(d) 32. Pitfalls* Ray Bontrager
 (b) 33. Grading And Record Keeping Jonathan Erb
 (e) 34. Evaluating A Students Progress Larry Martin
 (g) 35. Greasing The Machine Ernest Zeiset
 (f) 36. Career Audit- Long-term Teachers Jonathan Miller
 (c) 37. Ladies— Question and Answer Rose Miller

11:00—11:45 Relationships Loren Kropf

12:00 Lunch
 1:20—2:00 Singing and Prayer Jonathan Miller

2:15—3:00 WORKSHOP SESSION VIII

(d) 38. The Seven Laws Of Teaching Verlin Miller
 (g) 39. 1st Grade Track* Rowena Swartzendruber
 (e) 40. Creative Writing Lower Grades 3-6 TBD
 (f) 41. Creative Writing Upper Grades 7-12 TBD
 (b) 42. Public Speaking Jonathan Erb

Book Introductions

3:10—3:20 Story Time – Jaden Stoltzfus
 Personal Reading – Willie Derstine

Poetry

3:20—3:40

4:00—5:00 Individual Group Sharing and Prayer Time
 5:00—5:30 Idea and Resource Exchange
 5:30 Supper

7:15 Panel Discussion

* Indicates Novice Teacher's Training Track