

**Friday, August 8**

7:30—8:30 Continental Breakfast

8:30—9:00 Devotional and Testimony

9:00—9:45 Integrity That Protects and Defends Allen Troyer

10:00—10:45 **WORKSHOP SESSION IX**

40. Comparative Teaching\*  
Jonah Avina  
Derek Overholt  
Verlin Miller

41. The Demonstration of Science Jonathan Miller

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 2025**

# WFTI 2025

## Seventeenth 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 5-8, 2025**

**Lighthouse Mennonite School  
910 E 1<sup>st</sup> St.  
Halsey, Oregon 97348**

## Tuesday, August 5

7:30—8:30 Continental Breakfast

8:30—9:00 Devotional and Orientation

9:00—9:45 Why One Is So Important Allen Troyer

### 10:00—10:45 WORKSHOP SESSION I

- |                                   |                   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. The Privilege of Teaching*     | Jonah, Derek,     |
| 2. Developing Servants That Serve | Verlin Miller     |
| 3. Encouraging Mission            | TBD               |
| 4. Inspiring Excellence           | Gilbert Skrivseth |
| 5. Instilling Lasting Values      | Michael Mast      |
| 6. (Ladies) The Power of Trust    | Violet Miller     |

11:00—11:45 Seven Laws of Teaching Jonathan Erb

12:00 Lunch

1:20—2:00 Singing and Prayer

### 2:15—3:00 WORKSHOP SESSION II

- |                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 7. Preparation*                 | Derek Overholt   |
| 8. 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Track* | Rowena S         |
| 9. Purpose of Science           | Jonathan Miller  |
| 10. History                     | Steve Overholt   |
| 11. Music                       | Ryland Zimmerman |

### 3:15—4:00 WORKSHOP SESSION III

- |                                    |               |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| 12. Presources*                    | Jonah Avina   |
| 13. Incentives, Help or Hinderance | TBD           |
| 14. Stress Management              | Ben Troyer    |
| 15. Life in a Fishbowl             | Ernest Zeiset |
| 16. Crafting Curiosity             | Ray Bontrager |

4:10—4:40 In 6 Minutes...

### Teaching Respect for:

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Property        | Austin Miller  |
| Fellow Students | Brian Birky    |
| Authority       | Steve Overholt |
| The Handicapped | Michael Mast   |
| Oneself         | Ernest Zeiset  |

5:30 Supper

### Organized Activity

## Wednesday, August 6

7:30—8:30 Continental Breakfast

8:30—9:00 Opening and Meditation

9:00—9:45 Brother Dad Allen Troyer

### 10:00—10:45 WORKSHOP SESSION IV

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| 17. Presentation*                      | Jonah Avina  |
| 18. Bible Memorization                 | TBD          |
| 19. Devotionals (Upper Grades)         | TBD          |
| 20. Teaching Bible Class               | Michael Mast |
| 21. Preventing Teacher Burnout (board) | Leroy Wiens  |
| 22. Ladies                             | TBD          |

11:00—11:45 Seven Laws of Teaching Jonathan Erb

12:00 Lunch

1:20—2:00 Singing and Prayer

### 2:15—3:00 WORKSHOP SESSION V

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| 23. Procedures*                                 | Verlin Miller    |
| 24. 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Track*                | Rowena S         |
| 25. Facts of Science                            | Jonathan Miller  |
| 26. History                                     | Steve Overholt   |
| 27. Music                                       | Ryland Zimmerman |
| 28. Long Term Teacher – Fact or Fiction (board) | Paul Sommers     |

3:15—3:30 RAD James Martin

3:30—3:45 Dyslexia Jonah Avina

3:45—4:00 Autism TJ Bear

4:10—4:40 Natural Wonders

Gilbert Skrivseth  
Edwin Bontrager Jr.  
Derek Overholt  
Jordan Miller  
Ben Troyer

Idea and Resource Exchange

5:30 Supper

7:15—8:00 The Bible in our Classroom/Education Verlin Miller

## Thursday, August 7

7:30—8:30 Continental Breakfast

8:30—9:00 Opening and Meditation

9:00—9:45 Teaching My Wife's Relatives Allen Troyer

### 10:00—10:45 WORKSHOP SESSION VII

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| 29. Pitfalls*                              | Derek Overholt |
| 30. Cliques and Clubs                      | Ernest Zeiset  |
| 31. Co-Teacher Dynamics                    | Austin Miller  |
| 32. Practical Discipline For Middle Grades | Brian Birky    |
| 33. Sportsmanship                          | TBD            |
| 34. (Ladies)                               | TBD            |

11:00—11:45 Seven Laws of Teaching Jonathan Erb

12:00 Lunch

1:20—2:00 Singing and Prayer

### 2:15—3:00 WORKSHOP SESSION VIII

- |                                  |                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 35. Art                          | Ray Bontrager    |
| 36. 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Track* | Rowena S         |
| 37. Questions of Science         | Jonathan Miller  |
| 38. History                      | Steve Overholt   |
| 39. Music                        | Ryland Zimmerman |

### Book Introductions

3:10—3:20 Story Time –  
Personal Reading –

### 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 – Allen Troyer

\* Indicates Novice Teacher's Training Track