

The Dent Schoolhouse

By: Taylor Yeager

Cincinnati's great haunted house, the Dent Schoolhouse, once was a normal schoolhouse. Although many know the story of school children going missing and being found in the basement. It is believed the janitor, Charlie McFree was responsible for the death and abduction of the children. The school was closed in 1949, but actually not as a result of a janitor murdering children.

The schoolhouse was built in 1894, originally just two rooms with an addition in 1912 according to Cincinnati.com. When Dent Public School and South Road School closed in 1949, students relocated to the new Charles W. Springmyer Elementary school which is a part of Oak Hills Local School District. The Enquiry archive has no record of Charlie McFree or missing children, so the haunted house is not haunted by Charlie or the children.

The Dent Schoolhouse regular haunt is open from September 21 to October 31st this Halloween season according to thedentschoolhouse.com. Walking through the haunted house allows a participant to, "experience the story of a murderous janitor and the killer facility that now inhabits" the Dent Schoolhouse. Going to this haunted house is an annual event for the people in Cincinnati.



Times

Thursday and Sunday 7:30-10 pm
Friday and Saturday 7:30 pm-12 am
October 8, 15, and 22 6:30 pm-12 am

Prices

Regular Haunt General \$25
Regular Haunt Fast Pass \$45
Regular Haunt Front of Line \$55

The Dent Schoolhouse has many other events other than regular haunts. Wednesdays in October there are hour-long ghost tours at the schoolhouse. There are 3 groups every week, one at 8, 9, and 10 there are 12 tickets available for each group. Tickets are \$50. There will be no actors, props, or sound effects, just a group and tour guide in the dark.

On Sunday, October 23rd from 4-7 pm guests can experience the Dent Schoolhouse with lights on. With no actors inside participants can go through the house at their own pace. Children's tickets are \$10 while adult tickets are \$15.

Also, on Saturdays and Sundays from 4:30-6 pm in October Dent offers behind-the-scenes tours. These tours allow guests to look at the makeup room, costuming, and backstage areas. Tours are approximately an hour long, with 10 tickets per tour. Tickets are currently \$50.

After the Halloween season, the schoolhouse offers a thrilling lights-out haunt. Only on November 4th and 5th between 7:30 pm to 12 am guests can experience the house in a new way. Regular admission is \$30, a fast pass is \$50 and the front of the line is \$60. On Dent Schoolhouse's website, a touch pass can be added to any of these tickets for just \$10; the touch pass allows actors to touch guests.

Another season after Halloween, Dent still offers to haunt. This December on the 9th and 10th from 6-10 pm guests can experience a Christmas Nightmare. This special one-weekend event allows participants to experience a Christmas celebration at the Dent Schoolhouse. Regular tickets are \$30, fast pass tickets are \$50 and front-of-the-line tickets are \$60.

The Dent Schoolhouse is a must-go-to event every year, especially for locals. A sophomore at Mercy McAuley, Sydney Szempruch plans on attending haunt this year, and so does Oak Hills student sophomore Bethany Bachman. According to Sydney "Dent is the scariest place on earth." Dent offers many events, times, and dates. The Dent Schoolhouse in Cincinnati is a great family and friend activity for all. Before attending any events one must be aware of the precautions to take at the schoolhouse; such precautions include close-toed shoes, and to not enter the haunted house if one has seizures or recently has had surgery.