

MY LITTLE PONY

Season 8

School Daze

Ep 801

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Premise: August 12th, 2016

SCHOOL DAZE

Premise by Michael Vogel and Nicole Dubuc

Logline: Twilight Sparkle opens her own School of Friendship to help unify Equestria and beyond; unfortunately, not everypony embraces her idea of diversity.

The events of the (epic, awesome, amazing) MY LITTLE PONY FEATURE FILM have settled down. Twilight and her friends now know that the world is way different than they thought and much bigger than just Equestria. In fact, they arrive home to discover that the map in Twilight's castle has grown in size to match the scope of their journey! Everything from Klugetown to Mt. Aris now appears on the map. Twilight in particular has learned a tough lesson. She may be The Princess of Friendship, but she can't do everything by herself. If she hadn't had her friends there to help her (as well as the new friends they met along the way), Equestria could have been lost forever! Twilight realizes that to protect her home and help others, they are going to need a lot more ponies to be experts in friendship. And the only way to do that? Teach them! Twilight decides to open up a SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP!

Twilight and Princess Celestia tour Celestia's School of Magic in Canterlot. Celestia thinks a School of Friendship is a wonderful idea. Twilight asks for advice as she takes tons of notes (she has eight notepads going at the same time). Celestia laughs and reminds Twilight she used to be a student here, she knows how the school works. But Twilight says running a school is different than attending, and she wants to make sure she does it perfectly. Celestia is sure Twilight will be flawless, and besides, she will have the guidelines of the EQUESTRIAN EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION to go by. Twilight says she has never heard of the EEA. Celestia explains that the EEA is a board of very educated ponies who oversee all the different schools in Equestria. They make sure that whether it's unicorns learning magic or Pegasi learning weather, there's a standard and a structure to all Equestrian education. Twilight will have to get their approval before she can open her school. But Celestia says Twilight shouldn't be nervous, she has a feeling no one opening a school has ever been as detail oriented as Twilight Sparkle.

Twilight meets with the EEA, a board of very officious ponies. They go over her plans (which of course are super detailed and specific) and can't find anything out of place. Twilight is given the go ahead to open her school as long as she obeys all the rules in the (very large) EEA handbook. Twilight is thrilled, she loves rules. This is going to be GREAT!

Back in Ponyville, Twilight and her friends put the finishing touches on the SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP! Twilight follows the handbook diligently, making sure EVERYTHING is exactly as it should be. Her friends question if everything has to be THAT exact, but Twilight insists. Each of the Mane 6 are "faculty" now, with classrooms and lesson plans. None of them feel 100% comfortable in this position, but Twilight refers to the EEA handbook and what it requires. This is the way it has to be done! The EEA will be coming in a few weeks for "Friends and Family Day" to see the progress of the school and make sure things are being done by the book. Twilight is determined to do it by the book and her friends are determined not to let her down, whatever it takes!

As the big first day arrives, Twilight has a moment of self-doubt. What if nopony wants to come to her school? What if no one wants to learn about friendship?! Nopony has shown up yet!!! Spike looks out

the window, “Maybe it’s because the doors are still closed?” He points to the crowd of students gathering outside. Twilight has a SECOND moment of self-doubt. What if she isn’t ready? What if they don’t like her school! Her friends calm her down and open the doors for the students.

Not only do PONIES pour into the school... a Griffon, a Changeling, a Dragon, a Yak and a Hippogriff student arrive as well. They have come as representatives of their respective lands at Twilight’s invitation to learn about friendship, accompanied by a “delegate” from their home, to drop them off and get them settled. Twilight says she hopes these new students are the first of many, and reminds the delegates to return on “Friends and Family Day” to check in and see how things are going!

Classes start and things... Don’t quite go smoothly. In a montage musical number we see that the Mane 5 aren’t comfortable as “teachers” (that’s more Twilight’s thing). Twilight is being SUPER strict about the rules which is causing some serious friend friction and on top of all that, since many young ponies have never seen a Changeling, Hippogriff, Griffon, Yak, or Dragon (aside from Spike) before... They are distracted by the way they act, the things they eat, it’s all just so different!

By the end of the song (which has covered a few weeks time), it’s clear that everyone is fried. It was not the most auspicious beginning for Twilight’s School of Friendship. “Friends and Family” day is here and tensions are running high throughout the school. In fact it feels more like a school of frenemies than friendship! Naturally this is the moment when everything goes wrong – the Dragon student accidentally sets a classroom on fire, which causes the Yak student to stampede through the school, destroying things as she goes. The Griffon and Hippogriff are having a sky race, which ends in a crash that causes the School’s roof/tower to collapse, and the Changeling’s practical jokes cause a magical explosion that rocks the school on its foundation. A freaked-out Twilight barely holds it together with the help of her friends as the Princesses, the EEA and delegates from the surrounding lands arrive.

Twilight tries to take them all through the back door and only show them one classroom (unruined, with “fake” students showing how the school SHOULD work), but when a wall falls over, the jig is up. The whole school is a disaster area. Twilight tries to explain, but the EEA pony declares that this is what happens when you don’t follow rules to the letter, and letting in all these other non-pony creatures is NOT by the book. What was Twilight thinking?! Twilight insists that everyone deserves to learn Friendship! The delegates angrily agree, and after consulting with each other announce that each of them is taking one of the teachers of the school with them back to their lands, to teach friendship, as they were promised! Twilight says that’s not what she meant! But she is stuck... she wants to bring all the creatures of Equestria together and teach everypony friendship, but she also has to follow the rules as set forth by the EEA. She can’t keep everyone at her school, but she doesn’t want to lose her friends! It’s a no win situation. It seems that her efforts to teach friendship have just resulted in everypony fighting with everypony else. Even Celestia and Luna aren’t quite sure how to handle the situation without causing a HUGE issue with the delegates from the other lands. Her friends see how important this is, and they all volunteer to go teach abroad until Twilight figures something out. I mean... She WILL figure something out... Right?

As Twilight’s friends prepare to leave Ponyville and Twilight desperately tries to come up with what to do we.... END PART ONE.