

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 8
School's Out Forever
Ep 802

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SCHOOL’S OUT FOREVER

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Logline: With her School of Friendship in shambles, Twilight Sparkle must reunite her friends and buck the rules to stand up for what she knows is right – everyone, pony or not, deserves to learn friendship together.

Time has passed since part one, and Twilight Sparkle is a mess. Her School of Friendship was disbanded by the schoolboard ponies of the EEA. The rest of the Mane Six have been scattered to the winds to teach in different kingdoms. And even Celestia doesn’t have any solutions. Meanwhile, Twilight’s friends are similarly miserable (possibly in song!). Homesick for her animal pals, Fluttershy is making the best of her time teaching on Mt. Aris. Rarity is doomed to a lifetime of frizzy bad hair days in the hot Dragon Lands, Rainbow Dash is OVER Griffonstone, Apple Jack doesn’t really get the Changelings, and while Pinkie Pie enjoys visiting Yakyaksitan, it’s nearly impossible to get balloons there. Worst of all, they’re supposed to be teaching about friendship, without their actual friends anywhere nearby!

Spike can’t budge Twilight from her funk, despite trying over-the-top ways to cheer her up (comically attempting to channel the Mane Five). But it’s Starlight Glimmer who has the advice Twilight needs – don’t follow the rules. Twilight is surprised out of her sulk: “Uh, have you MET me?” Starlight explains – sometimes, when you know something is right, you have to stand up for it. Even if everypony tells you you’re wrong. It’s like when Twilight stood up for Starlight – or when Starlight stood up for the Pony of Shadows. It’s time for Twilight to take charge and let the world know that her school WILL open for whoever wants to come. So what if it’s not EEA accredited. Who needs a piece of paper with a stamp on it to tell them they’re doing what’s right?

Twilight wavers, then realizes – to protect the entire world, creatures of all kinds will HAVE to work together in friendship. And if there’s no rule in the book for that... Well, then, she’ll just have to write another book! The School of Friendship is back in business! Spike coughs and points out that the school is in shambles and has no teachers. Twilight is undeterred – once more on a mission!

In a series of fun “jailbreak” style sequences, Twilight, Spike and Starlight split up to get their friends back! The ponies are relieved; as much as they’ve grown to genuinely like their new students, they’d really love to get their normal lives back. Applejack is worried and asks Twilight what’s gonna happen when the delegates all realize their friendship teachers have hightailed it home. Twilight says not to worry, she’s got a plan!

Once they all arrive home, Twilight apologizes to her friends – she was trying to create a school just like every other one in Equestria. But what they really need is something different, because what they’re doing has never been attempted before! No more rules, lectures or strict lesson plans. The Mane Five are thrilled – does this mean they don’t have to be teachers? Twilight nods – they’ll all be friendship mentors. That’s all well and good, but Rarity points out that the school has been destroyed – where will the lessons take place? Twilight smiles – just wait right here, the school IS the lesson.

Almost immediately, delegates show up from their various kingdoms with their students, furious with Twilight for “stealing back” her friends! What happened to their personal pony tutors? Celestia and Luna quickly arrive to see what all the commotion is. The EEA pony is with them, irate! This school has already been discredited! What does Twilight think she is doing?! It looks like there’s going to be an international incident, as the delegates begin pointing fingers and arguing, but Twilight just stands there, the calm at the center of the storm... “Wait for it...”

And then, the students step up to take a stand for their school – and for the Mane Six who’ve been showing them what friendship really means. The Yak, Changeling, Griffon, Hippogriff, and Dragon delegates stop speaking as their children explain they’ve learned that friendship makes their kingdoms stronger – and they’ll show them how. As one, the students turn and start working TOGETHER to rebuild the school – something none of them could have accomplished alone, a huge goal only possible by working side-by-side as friends.

The delegate parents are won over, but not the EEA pony, who demands the unlawful school be closed for good! That’s when Twilight hands over her own tome of how HER school is run and tells the EEA pony that her school follows all the rules a friendship school should. She should know, she wrote the book on it. Celestia supports Twilight, and the sour EEA pony is shut down.

Twilight invites the parents to join their kids, and in a montage, they all work together to rebuild the school. As the montage ends we begin to see the Mane Six teaching in diverse ways – from storytelling, to crafts, to field trips, to reading, whatever each student sparks to. Twilight’s School of Friendship is officially open for enrollment - and from the number of summons appearing all over the Map, it’s not a moment too soon!