

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 8

School's Out Forever
Ep 802

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SCHOOL OUT FOREVER

Premise by Michael Vogel and Nicole Dubuc

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.

TEASER**Sc. 1 – RECAP, VARIOUS 801 LOCATIONS**

Using scenes from 801: "School Daze", we remind our viewers that:

- The Map has gotten bigger.
- TWILIGHT SPARKLE is opening a Friendship School and gets EEA accreditation – "to protect Equestria."
- Twilight is strict with the MANE FIVE about sticking to the school rules.
- The new students, a HIPPOGRIFF (SILVERSTAR), CHANGELING (GOSSAMER), DRAGON (BLAZE), YAK (YANA) and GRIFFIN (GALLUS) aren't having fun in class; neither are their teachers.
- The EEA PONY NEIGHSAW shows up to check on the school. Twilight can't find the students...
- The students are all having fun together, which ramps up in to a disaster that the EEA Pony, CELESTIA and the visiting DELEGATES witness.
- The EEA Pony discredits and closes the school!

END TEASER**ACT ONE****Sc. 2 - INT. TWILIGHT SPARKLE'S CASTLE/BEDROOM – DAY**

Twilight is buried under a mound of pillows, wallowing in (over-the-top, humorous) depression, with emo-music playing, and the shades drawn. SPIKE peeks into her pile, asking how she's doing today. Twilight answers, "mmph." Spike isn't sure if that's a "yes" mmph or a "no" mmph, so he does his best to cheer her up, reminding Twilight to look on the bright side! Now that her school's closed, she'll have lots more time to do other things. It's like...Being on vacation! Twilight sticks her head out – dark circles under her eyes, clearly. "A failure vacation." She's supposed to be the Princess of Friendship – instead, she's single-handedly destroyed the good relationship the Ponies had with all the other creatures in Equestria! Not to mention her school is *shudder* unaccredited. There is no cheering her out of this funk. Spike is gonna have to bring in the big guns...

Spike opens the door to the room and APPLEJACK and FLUTTERSHY enter, Applejack carrying some cure-all cider, telling Twilight that none of what happened is her fault! She tried her best! Fluttershy agrees, and adds that whenever she's sad, ANGEL BUNNY cheers her up by cuddling. Angel rolls his eyes, but hops over to Twilight and half-heartedly snuggles against her leg...And is instantly depressed himself. Fluttershy, alarmed, takes Angel back. RAINBOW DASH zooms in, knocking the pillows aside with the rush of her wings, and opening the drapes

to let in light. Dash: “Let’s get some light in here and get those hooves moving! That’ll cheer you up!” Except it doesn’t. RARITY has her own solution – nothing makes her feel better like a new dress! She magics it on Twilight, who still looks downcast: “Thanks, Rarity, it’s a great dress... For someone who knows how to run a school.” Even PINKIE PIE strikes out, boinging in with some feel-better cupcakes at the ready. Twilight says thanks but no thanks. Pinkie stage-whispers to Spike – he didn’t tell her this was a PITY party, or she would have come better prepared!

Twilight thanks her friends for trying to help, but not everything can be solved with dresses and cupcakes (GASPS from Rarity and Pinkie). What she needs right now is time to be alone and think. Twilight walks out of her castle as her worried friends talk. Spike shrugs – at least she’s doing SOMETHING!

Sc. 3 - EXT. TWILIGHT’S SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP – DAY, SOON

Twilight is walking alongside the lake outside her failed school – magically closed with the EEA seal and damaged from the events of 801 – when STARLIGHT GLIMMER approaches. Twilight tries to warn her – everyone’s already tried to cheer her up, so don’t bother. Starlight shrugs, “I’m not here to cheer you up. I’m here to tell you what you did wrong.” Twilight is surprised out of her funk. Starlight goes on to say that Twilight gave up too easily, “when you know in your heart that something is right, you have to stand up for it.” Like when Twilight stood up for Starlight – or when Starlight stood up for the Pony of Shadows.

Twilight weakly interrupts, “But the EEA rule book...” “Is for EEA schools,” Starlight says. There’s never been a School of Friendship before. Why should Twilight let anyone tell her how it should be run? Twilight’s eyes get bigger as she realizes that Starlight is right! As the Princess of Friendship, she’s the one who would best know how to run a Friendship school – it’s the job she was born to do! And if there’s no rule in the book for that... Then she’ll just have to write her own book! Starlight smiles – that’s the Twilight she knows. “I’ll work on fixing up the place. Something tells me you’re gonna have your hooves full,” Starlight says.

Sc. 4 - EXT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE – DAY, MOMENTS LATER

Once more full of purpose, Twilight charges up to Spike and the Mane 5, leaving the castle. “Guess what?! The School of Friendship is back in business!” Twilight announces happily. But her friends recoil at the announcement – they are SO not on board.

“No offense, but teaching at that school was the most boring, horrible, awful thing ever,” Rainbow Dash says. “Pretty sure she’s gonna take offense to that,” Applejack observes. But instead, Twilight apologizes to her friends. She knows what she did wrong now – she was so busy trying to make her school fit into the EEA’s way of doing things, she didn’t let any of her friends play to their strengths – Pinkie’s fun, Fluttershy’s kindness... You know, the elements of harmony they were supposed to be teaching in the first place!

Rarity asks – does this mean they can run their classes the way they want to? No pop quizzes or spot checks or confetti cannon confiscation? Twilight nods – from now on, they’ll live the friendship they’re trying to teach. The Mane 5 accept Twilight’s apology, and are behind her mission one hundred percent! Spike coughs and reminds the gang that there are two tiny

problems – the school is unaccredited, and it has no students. Twilight says she'll take care of the first part, if the Mane 5 will round up their class. How exactly? No idea – but Twilight's sure they can figure it out together.

SMASH TO:

Sc. 5 – EXT. YAKYAKISTAN – DAY (with I/C between EXT. THE DRAGON LANDS, EXT. CHANGELING KINGDOM, EXT. MT. ARIS, EXT. GRIFFONSTONE)

"Cupcake gram!" Pinkie announces, as the YAK GUARDS let her in to see PRINCE RUTHERFORD. She starts to explain that the School of Friendship is back in business and better than ever... I/C as Rarity continues explaining to EMBER in the Dragon Lands, Fluttershy makes her case to THORAX in the Changeling Kingdom, Applejack tells GENERAL SEASPRAY that SILVERSTAR is invited back, and Rainbow Dash tells the Griffons, "So let's go!" But the GRANPA GUFF glares – GALLUS is missing. In fact, ALL the delegates' students are missing. As the Mane 5 GASP at the realization --

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

Sc. 6 – EXT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE – NEXT DAY

The FIVE DELEGATES are fuming and blaming CELESTIA, Twilight and each other for their missing subjects – who apparently each left a note that they didn't want to be without their pals from school. Twilight tries to put a good spin on it – sounds like the friendship lessons worked! Nobody else shares her enthusiasm. The Yak Delegate is furious - this never would have happened if they hadn't sent a Yak to a Pony school! The Griffon delegate blames the Dragons for probably setting a bad example, the Hippogriff delegate is just worried about finding the students and the Dragon delegate asks the Changeling Delegate how they can even TELL when one of their kind is missing. "For all you know, they've just changed to look like someone else!" Despite Celestia's attempts to calm the crowd, this is ramping up into an international incident. Celestia turns to Twilight Sparkle and whispers – "Find them." Twilight nods, on it!

Sc. 7 – INT. SUGAR CUBE CORNER – DAY, SOON

In sleuth mode, the Mane 6 and Spike review what they know about the students' disappearance. As the friends spin wild theories about what might have happened (Time travel! Spell gone awry! Carnivorous shrimp attack!), ROSELUCK stops by to pick up a wagonload of cupcakes. "Are you throwing a party?!" Pinkie asks, immediately excited and ready to add party hats to the wagon. Roseluck answers awkwardly, no- she's just, uh...Really hungry.

Twilight gets everyone focused again – if someone had told them they could never see each other again what would they do? "Go someplace where we could all be together and eat lots of cupcakes!" Pinkie says. The others look at her. "What?" The others spell it out – Roseluck was friends with the students who went missing...And SHE has lots of cupcakes! Applejack remembers that she also bought a wagonload of apples...And Rarity saw SANDALWOOD in the shop buying pillows and blankets! All the signs point to the ponies buying supplies for more than just themselves... They must know where the students are!

Sc. 8 – EXT. SUGAR CUBE CORNER – DAY, CONT.

But outside, Roseluck is nowhere to be seen. Twilight tries to think through logically where she might have gone. Rainbow Dash flies around town, but can't find her. They'll have to track where she went, somehow. Fluttershy offers to go round up some animals to sniff out a trail but Applejack says there's no need. She holds a cupcake up to Pinkie Pie's nose. Pinkie takes in the scent, sniffs the air, screams "SUGAR!!!!" and takes off, sniffing the ground like a bloodhound: The Mane 6 head off to find the missing students.

Sc. 9 – INT. CASTLE OF THE TWO SISTERS – NIGHT

...Who are having the time of their lives at the Castle of the Two Sisters! Gallus asks Gossamer how she even knew this place existed. Gossamer explains that it was in the 'History of the Elements of Harmony' lesson at school. Gallus nods, that's why he didn't know. He didn't listen to those boring lessons. Blaze looks out the window and announces: "ROSELUCK AND SANDALWOOD ARE BACK!"

Sc. 10 – EXT. CASTLE OF THE TWO SISTERS – CONT.

The friends rush outside to help Roseluck and Sandalwood with the carts of cupcakes, apples and pillows from town. Gallus and Yana dive into the cupcakes. They're starving. Meanwhile Silverstar flies out of the castle obsessing over stairs. Stairs are AWESOME. There are NO stairs underwater because... no hooves or claws! Just tails. This place has everything! Talk of home causes a bit of wistfulness that the rest of their friends and family don't get to see how amazing it is to hang out with other creatures. Suddenly, there's a loud <GROWL> from OS, and Silverstar qualifies: "Uh...MOST other creatures..." As a pack of TIMBERWOLVES bursts from the forest and surrounds the students...

END ACT TWO**ACT THREE****Sc. 11 – EXT. CASTLE OF THE TWO SISTERS – NIGHT – RESUME**

The students huddle together, trying to scare off the menacing Timberwolves. Roseluck tells the others to fly to safety, but they won't leave their earth-bound friends. Yana tosses a pillow that a wolf snaps out of the air. Gossamer changes into a Timberwolf herself, but this only enrages the pack more! "I know! Use your fire!" Silverstar encourages Blaze. She nods and musters her might – and produces about the same amount of fire as a lighter. "That's IT?!" Gallus demands. She's been bragging about dragonfire this entire time and that's all she's got? "Well it's more fire than YOU can breathe!" Blaze counters. Sandalwood to Gallus, "She's kinda got you there..." The wolves snarl and snap as they back the students up to the castle wall, surrounding them.

Suddenly, a flash of rainbow spirals around the wolves... It's Rainbow Dash, distracting the creatures. Rarity and Twilight thunder in, using their magic to tie up one wolf in bows and levitate another away. Meanwhile, a flock of birds peck at a Timberwolf, stealing twigs from him. Applejack lassos another wolf for Pinkie Pie to splat him with cupcakes. The pack is soon sent on their way yelping, much to the amazement of the students.

"Whoa. I had no idea our teachers were actually cool." Gallus asides to Sandalwood. Silverstar is awestruck and re-counting every awesome moment even though they all JUST lived through it. Blaze nods – that was pretty awesome, even by dragon standards. "Yak say not bad... For pony." Yana agrees. Gossamer is awed – so THAT's what friends working together looks like. "I TOLD you they were cool!" Roseluck insists.

Twilight approaches the students and tells them it's pretty clear they've figured out what friendship is, without the help of their teachers. "But we'd like to show you even more about it...If you come back to school." The students are reluctant, but they're even more surprised when their former teachers admit they felt the same way when Twilight told them about reopening the school. "But this isn't going to be anything like before. Believe me, that was no fun for any of us," Applejack says. Rainbow Dash nods – the new School of Friendship is TWO HUNDRED and twenty percent cooler. "And friendlier," Fluttershy adds. "Plus, all your nations won't go to war if you come back with us!" Pinkie chimes in. The students gape – is that what's going on?! Rarity nods – so the sooner they return the better.

Sc 12 -- EXT. TWILIGHT SPARKLE'S SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP – NEXT DAY

Twilight helps Starlight magically finish fixing the last of the school's exterior damage to the tower as the Mane 5 and their students watch. Everything is once more gleaming and ready to go – but the EEA seal is still in place, like magical police tape, blocking anyone from entering.

Having received Twilight's message that the students were found, Celestia leads the Delegates up to the school doors. The other creatures are blustery and demanding to know the meaning of this! Now that their subjects have been found safe, it's time to go home. But the students insist that they're staying at the school. "How? You can't even get in the doors," Gallus sarcastically points out. Twilight answers by using her horn to BLAST the seal open. Even Rainbow Dash is awed – now THAT's breaking the rules! "Friendship School is back in session!" Twilight announces.

Summoned by this action, Neighsay magically appears, blocking the doors in, horn lowered and glowing. He demands to know who dared to remove the EEA seal on this school without proper permission? Twilight says she did, and asks Neighsay to stand aside, or class will start late. The EEA pony glares – class for non-ponies isn't starting ever. The EEA has spoken – and NONE SHALL PASS! The Students grow restless at this – why shouldn't they be allowed to learn friendship? Roseluck and Sandalwood take a stand with their pals – if exclusion is what it means to be a pony, then they don't want to BE ponies. As things heat up, Celestia tries to mediate. She's not clear what's going on but, "I'm sure Twilight Sparkle has a good explanation."

And sure enough, Twilight does. "My School of Friendship doesn't need to be EEA accredited." ("Look! She said it without doing that shudder thing!" Spike whispers to Rarity.) The EEA pony splutters, "Then it's not a school!" Twilight smoothly corrects – "It's not an EEA school. It's a friendship school. With its own rules. I should know. I wrote the book."

Twilight magically floats over her own tome of the policies and regulations of her new school of friendship: as unique and different as the students who go there. "Because in MY school,

everyone is welcome. No matter what species." The EEA Pony is shocked – that's never been done before! Different creatures, co-existing...It simply won't work! "Oh I don't know, I seem to recall something about Earth Ponies, Unicorns and Pegasi overcoming their differences to live in harmony somewhere, don't you?" Celestia asks, smoothly. Twilight smiles at her one-time-mentor.

The Delegates are torn, and skeptical. "How's this going to be any different than last time?" Grampa Guff challenges. Twilight smiles and launches into...

Sc. 13 – INT. / EXT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS AROUND THE SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP –

A MUSICAL NUMBER! Twilight details her "Manifesto" in song, describing exactly what a Friendship School IS and ISN'T (in an upbeat list song – think "Old Joe's Place" from A Mighty Wind).

Sc. 14 – EXT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP

By the time she's finished singing, the Delegates are willing to try again. Neighsay leaves in disgust, beaten but not convinced, "Well it's YOUR problem now," he tells Twilight with venom. Starlight Glimmer walks over, watching with Twilight as the students and the delegates pitch in to help tidy up the school for the grand reopening. Starlight smiles to Twilight, "Guess I give pretty good advice, huh?" Twilight nods – plus writing a rule book was basically the most fun ever. She just had to remember that friendship isn't just about learning lessons – it's about shared experience and creating bonds. That's not something you can quantify. But it's definitely something you can feel. And as the School of Friendship is awash with happy chatter and teamwork...

END EPISODE