

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 8

Marks for Effort
Ep 812

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MARKS FOR EFFORT

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TEASER**SC.1 - EXT. TWILIGHT SPARKLE'S SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP – DAY**

APPLE BLOOM, SWEETIE BELLE, and SCOOTALOO are stacked on each other's shoulders, swaying as Scootaloo (at the top) tries to peer in a window at Twilight's School of Friendship. Apple Bloom excitedly says Silverstar told her that it's amazing inside. Sweetie Belle concurs – Rarity says there's never been another school like it. And Scootaloo's heard that the students get to do all kinds of awesome things! "Do ya see anything yet?" Apple Bloom (at the bottom) grunts. Scootaloo nods – "Yeah! It looks like...A BROOM! And a dust pan...And some buckets..." Sweetie Belle shakes her head – it sounds like they're looking in a closet.

The awkward stack of ponies inches over to another window, where BINGO – they peek in to see RAINBOW DASH leading FRIENDSHIP STUDENTS (including SILVERSTAR, OCELLUS, GALLUS, YANA, BLAZE and SANDALWOOD) in an active friendship game – each student says something complimentary, then quickly tosses a ball to another student (with their own particular style – midair, Yak-braid slap, etc.) – it's fast and fun! Until the ball zooms out the window and the CMCs tumble (safely) down into a flowerbed.

On their backs, they look up to see fireworks in the shape of hearts and rainbows in the sky – on a balcony, PINKIE PIE leads a few students in setting off friendship firework cannons. And then FLUTTERSHY leads a few students out on the lawn for a picnic. The CMCs are impressed – their school is fun, but it's nothing like THIS. That gives Scootaloo an idea – why don't they enroll in Twilight's school instead! The other CMCs are on board – what could be better than learning friendship with your best buds?! The moment is interrupted as Rainbow Dash clears her throat from the windowsill, looking pointedly at the stray ball... "Um, a little help?"

END TEASER**MAIN TITLES****ACT ONE****SC. 2 - INT. TWILIGHT'S SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP – CLASSROOM – THE NEXT DAY**

SPIKE helpfully holds up visual aids as TWILIGHT starts her class. Until... "Uh, Spike? Can you lower your wings? I can't see my students." Spike blushes and apologizes. He's still getting used to them. Twilight smiles and reassures him that she totally understands. But when Twilight DOES see her class, she's surprised to find that it's grown by three. The CMCs are sitting in the front row, beaming at her. Twilight looks surprised and asks what they're doing there. "We're here to learn friendship!" Sweetie Belle explains helpfully. "When do we get to play games?" Scootaloo wants to know. Twilight looks taken aback, "Actually... Could you three come with

me for a moment?” The CMCs happily bound after Twilight (who asks Spike to take over teaching for a moment). Spike nods, then turns to the class excitedly.

SC. 3 - INT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP – HALLWAY – CONT.

Twilight gently tells the CMCs that they can't come to her school. The trio gapes in dismay. “But why not?” Sweetie Belle asks. “Yeah! We'll study extra hard!” Apple Bloom promises. “You said this school was for EVERYcreature,” Scootaloo adds pointedly. Twilight nods, “And it is. But this school teaches friendship lessons. You already know all about helping ponies in need, and being there for each other.” She tells them that they don't need her classes, but they do need Cheerilee's. “You should get back to your school right now, before you miss too much.” The CMCs protest, but Twilight is adamant. The trio trudges off, but they aren't taking no for an answer. Scootaloo vows to her friends that they'll just have to show Twilight that where friendship is concerned, they still have a lot to learn.

Meanwhile Twilight opens the door to her classroom to find several ponies standing on their desks reciting, “O Captain, my Captain.” “Spiiiiike? What did you do?” Twilight asks the sheepish dragon.

SC. 4 - EXT. STREETS OF PONYVILLE – NEXT DAY

Sweetie Belle hides behind a building as Fluttershy and Pinkie Pie walk down the path on their way to another day of school. Spotting them coming, Sweetie Belle waves her hoof at Scootaloo, who nods and hops on her scooter. Next, Sweetie Belle signals Apple Bloom, who balances a bucket of apples on her head as she walks toward Scootaloo. Scootaloo swerves, her scooter going flying, and Apple Bloom drops her apples right in front of Fluttershy and Pinkie. Scootaloo yells at Apple Bloom – why wasn't she watching where she was going? Apple Bloom says she was, it was Scootaloo who was driving recklessly. The two ponies amp up their arguing, much to the shock of Fluttershy and Pinkie Pie. Pinkie gapes. She thought those two went together like candy canes and stripes... along with Sweetie Belle. As though it's a cue, Sweetie Belle storms into the fray and pretends to trip on Scootaloo's scooter, knocking over more apples in her over-the-top pratfall. Now all three CMCs are accusing each other!

“Oh my,” says Fluttershy, “they seem really upset.” “It's like they forgot they're friends!” Pinkie Pie adds in surprise. Overhearing this, Scootaloo can't help a tiny smile as she whispers to her friends that it's working. They did it! “Good plan, Apple Bloom.” “And great acting, Sweetie Belle!” Proud of their team work, the CMCs happily high-hoof each other... Only to realize that Fluttershy and Pinkie are still watching them. Oops. “Yaaay! You're friends again! I knew you would be!” Pinkie says, happily boinging past. The CMCs sigh...Back to the drawing board.

SC. 5 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – LATER

Applejack trots across the farm happily, only to stop when her hoof crunches something. “What in tarnation...” She wonders, looking down to see she's stepped on an overturned apple basket. Looking around, she sees that the farm is half-hazardly scattered with equipment, left out

everywhere. Frowning, Applejack calls for Apple Bloom. She finds her little sister under a tree, sipping a cool drink and lazily reading. “You know better than to leave out good tools like that!” Apple Bloom shrugs, “I guess.” Applejack closes her sister’s book. “And aren’t you supposed to be on harvest duty right now?” Apple Bloom shrugs – it’s not like the apples are going anywhere. Applejack can’t believe her ears! What has gotten into her sister? Farm work is family work! “I guess I still have a lot to learn ... But MAYBE if I went to Twilight’s Friendship School, I’d be better at helping the family.” Apple Bloom says, overselling it. Applejack catches wise to her sister – so that’s what all this is about. In that case, Applejack is happy to give her sister a private lesson right now. Starting with cleaning up all this equipment!

SC. 6 - INT. CAROUSEL BOUTIQUE – SAME TIME

“Please can I go to Twilight’s school? Please? PLEASE?!” Sweetie Belle nags RARITY, following her around the shop, popping out of fabric piles, grabbing her sister’s back hoof, etc. “Honestly, Sweetie Belle, I can’t hear myself think,” Rarity says. Sweetie Belle pauses a moment, then starts up again, “How about now? PLEEEEEEASE?!” Rarity sighs.

SC. 7 - INT. RAINBOW DASH’S CLASSROOM – SAME TIME

To illustrate loyalty, Dash is telling one of her thrilling Wonderbolt tales to her Friendship Students... Including Scootaloo, wearing her disguise (reuse 708). Scootaloo gets increasingly excited by the tale, until she can’t contain herself and she leaps up to ask, “Is this the time you did the super-amazing half-twist into a diving sonic rainboom?!” Rainbow Dash looks suspicious, “Hey...I never told that story to my students before...” Scootaloo tries to cover, but her disguise slips as she backs away, revealing her true identity. The jig is up.

SC. 8 - INT. CHEERILEE’S CLASSROOM – LATER

Applejack, Rarity, and Rainbow Dash escort the CMCs to Cheerilee’s class. Miss Cheerilee is happy to see them: “You almost missed classroom cleanup day!” She beams, pointing to the other students who are sweeping and tidying, “I saved trash duty just for you!” The CMCs sigh. Looks like they’re going nowhere...fast.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC. 9 - INT. CMC CLUBHOUSE – LATER THAT DAY

Apple Bloom, Sweetie Belle and Scootaloo put their heads together, trying to brainstorm a new scheme to get into Twilight’s School. “We’ve tried forgetting friendship, pestering, sneaking in... We need something new. Something unexpected...” Sweetie Belle says. There’s the sound of soft CRYING from O.S. Apple Bloom says, “Good idea, Scootaloo! We haven’t tried crying yet.” Scootaloo shrugs – that wasn’t her. It sounds like it’s coming from outside...

The CMCs peek out the window to see a young, small, adorable PEGASUS PONY (COZY GLOW), sitting under a tree, sniffing and looking miserable. “Aw, she looks so sad!” Sweetie Belle says, “We should see if we can help.”

SC. 10 - EXT. CMC CLUBHOUSE – CONT.

Apple Bloom asks the young pony what’s wrong. Surprised, she sniffles out (in a SHIRLEY TEMPLESQUE sweet way) that her problem is Twilight’s School of Friendship. Scootaloo nods empathetically, “She won’t let you in either, huh?” “Oh no, that’s not it,” Cozy says, “it’s just so...HARD!” Cozy introduces herself, then goes on to explain to the CMCs that she’s from another town – she just moved here to go to Twilight Sparkle’s School of Friendship. But she’s having a lot of trouble with the lessons. Apple Bloom, Scootaloo, and Sweetie Belle all look at each other, having the same idea at once. They can help Cozy Glow study! “We know all about friendship,” Scootaloo reassures Cozy. “And helping you with your classes will be almost as good as bein’ in ‘em!” Apple Bloom says.

Cozy is overjoyed to have their aid. “But...Why would you help me? You don’t even know me.” Sweetie Belle smiles – that’s the first thing to learn about friendship. When you give your help, you give it from your heart and don’t expect anything in return.” Cozy smiles and shows her new tutors her most recent, difficult friendship assignment. She holds up pictures of BULK BICEPS, MRS. CAKE, and BIG MAC. “I have to do something nice for these ponies. But I don’t know anything about them. And it’s so hard to talk to ponies you don’t know...” The CMCs are on the case! They’re sure they can help Cozy ace her homework.

SC. 11 - EXT. PONYVILLE – NEXT DAY

BULK BICEPS is doing reps with huge barbells as Cozy inches over toward him, holding a towel over her back. She timidly stops next to him and clears her throat. Nearby, Scootaloo motions her forward and whispers, “You can do this!” Cozy gulps and says in a fast rattle, “I know you like to work out and that’s sweaty so here’s a towel to dry off with!” She tosses the towel on Bulk and runs off. He drops his barbells and clutches the towel, eyes brimming with joy. “THANK YOU!” He calls, “I always wanted my own sweat towel!” Scootaloo smiles to Cozy – see? Friendship is about figuring out what others need, and getting it for them!

SC. 12 - EXT. MRS. CAKE’S SHOP – SOON

Sweetie Belle and Cozy have just finished sorting a bucket of rainbow sprinkles into separate colors one at a time, so their eyes are a little twitchy. But it will all be worth it for Mrs. Cake to have separate sprinkle shakers to decorate her baked goods in exactly the colors she wants. Mrs. Cake is definitely thrilled with her gift – but she instantly just uses all the shakers at once. “Look! I made rainbow sprinkles! Aren’t they wonderful?” She gushes to Sweetie and Cozy. Cozy gapes in horror/disbelief, but Sweetie Belle talks her down, explaining that when you give a gift, the friendship is in the giving... Not in how the gift gets used. Besides, Mrs. Cake DOES seem to love her present...Even if it’s not what they intended.

SC. 13 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – SOON

Big Mac kicks a tree, then looks surprised when no apples rain down. He frowns, then runs to another tree and kicks...Still no apples! Starting to get worried, he runs to a third tree. NOTHING! At a whistle from OS, he turns to see: Cozy Glow and Apple Bloom standing next to stacks of baskets of apples already harvested. Big Mac's jaw drops, then he smiles. Cozy looks to AB, amazed, "how did you know that would make him happy?" Apple Bloom shrugs, "friendship means pitchin' in to help others' chores go faster." Cozy nods, the light dawning. "Especially when Sugar Belle's waitin' outside the farm." Big Mac blushes, then gallops off at top speed with a goofy grin on his face.

SC. 14 - EXT. CMC CLUBHOUSE – THE NEXT DAY

Cozy runs up, joyful. She got an A on her assignment! And she never would have done it without the CMCs. They admit they were happy to help. They're just bummed they can't do more – Friendship School seems like so much fun... "Actually, you can do more." Cozy says, "If you don't mind... Professor Twilight Sparkle is giving us all a big test at the end of the week. And I could really use some help studying." The CMCs perk up at that – what are they waiting for?

SC. 15 - IN A STUDY MONTAGE, we see the CMCs getting Cozy ready for the big test. Throughout, they are clearly having a blast.

- Together they play the ball/friendship game from the teaser.
- They point to a chart of the different friendship elements, quizzing Cozy. She has no clue.
- They have a picnic, where each pony brings food potluck-style. Cozy doesn't have a dish, so the others share with her.
- Back to the element chart. Cozy is unsure, but manages to guess correctly.
- The CMCs toss confetti in the air and Cozy flies through it, forming a heart.
- Cozy can do the element chart with her eyes closed! She's ready for the test!

SC. 16 - EXT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP – TEST DAY

The CMCs wait excitedly outside with flowers. They're sure Cozy Glow aced her exam, and they're looking forward to congratulating her! But when Cozy appears, she's walking slowly. "How'd it go?" "Were there any essay questions?" "Did you remember everything we studied?" The CMCs crowd around, asking cheerfully. Cozy shakes her head and bursts into tears. "I FAILED!" She wails, and runs back into the school. The CMCs share a dumbfounded look. But...HOW?!

Twilight Sparkle steps out of the school, frowning. She spots the CMCs and angrily tells them she'd like to see them in her office...NOW. "I know we wanted to be invited to her school, but this isn't really what I had in mind..." Scootaloo gulps as the trio follows Twilight inside.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE**SC. 17 - INT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP – TWILIGHT’S OFFICE – SOON**

Twilight paces back and forth in front of the CMCs, upset. “I can’t believe you’d do this!” “Do what?” Apple Bloom asks. Twilight looks surprised – how could they not know? “You ARE Cozy Glow’s friendship tutors, aren’t you?” Sweetie Belle nods – they’ve been working with her for days. Twilight frowns, “That’s what she told me. And clearly, you’ve been setting her up to fail!” The CMCs gape – WHAT?! Twilight goes on – she knows they’re upset that they can’t go to her friendship school. But to teach a student all the wrong things out of spite... “That’s just cruel.” The CMCs protest – they didn’t do that! But the fact remains that Cozy failed her test, and the CMCs admit they taught her everything she knew. Twilight reads from the test in disbelief: “Just listen to these answers: What are the six elements of harmony? Five turtlenecks and a cheese grater? Who is the Princess of Friendship? Your mom?” Twilight is very disappointed, and the CMCs are crushed when she tells them that they are dismissed... Permanently.

From the hallway, Cozy Glow overhears this and looks worried. As the CMCs go, she trots off to—

SC. 18 - INT. GUIDANCE COUNSELOR OFFICE – SOON

STARLIGHT GLIMMER jumps when Cozy Glow enters her office. She hasn’t had any students visit her yet, and she’s still a little nervous about her role as Guidance Counselor, so she tries extra-hard, offering a “comfort pillow, security blanket, or empathy cupcake?” Cozy shakes her head – what’s she’s come for is advice. Starlight babbles that she has plenty of advice, insightful stories, you name it... Then catches herself. “Ahem. I mean...Go ahead. I’m listening.”

Cozy Glow admits to Starlight that she failed the test on purpose. Starlight gapes – WHY? Then catches herself. “Sorry, listening.” Cozy explains that the CMCs were so kind to her, she wanted to do something really nice for them. “And I know they want to go to this school more than anything. I thought if I showed Professor Twilight that they were bad at friendship, she’d let them go to school here with me!” “That’s devious!” Starlight blurts, before catching herself, “I mean... I see.” Cozy sighs – she guesses she still has a lot to learn about friendship. “Actually, I think it’s the opposite.” Starlight explains that although it wasn’t the best way to go about things, Cozy’s heart was in the right place to want to help her friends. But the reason the CMCs don’t go to Twilight’s school is that they’d make better teachers than students. “So you DO have a place for them here?” Cozy asks. Starlight looks thoughtful...

SC. 19 - INT. CHEERILEE’S CLASSROOM – NEXT DAY

The CMCs are doing arts and crafts without much spirit. They still don’t understand how Cozy could fail her test...Or how Twilight could blame them. “Guess we better really practice our paper mache. ‘Cause we’re not leaving this school any time soon,” Apple Bloom says.

Suddenly, Miss Cheerilee summons the CMCs – it seems Twilight Sparkle wants them to come to her School of Friendship immediately. The CMCs share a gulp.

SC. 20 - INT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP – AUDITORIUM – SOON

Scootaloo, Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle anxiously walk in to find the Mane 6 and Starlight waiting for them with Cozy Glow. Tension mounts until Scootaloo dramatically explains, “We didn’t do anything wrong, we promise!” Surprisingly, Twilight smiles, “I know that now. Which is why the School of Friendship would like to present you with these.” Starlight floats three diplomas over to the CMCs. Twilight explains that they’re honorary degrees from the school.

Cozy Glow admits to the CMCs that the misunderstanding was her fault, and Twilight thanks her for her honesty – one of the pillars of friendship. “But you already knew that...” She winks to the CMCs. The trio is proud...Even if it still means they don’t get to go to Friendship School. “Actually,” says Starlight, “If you’re interested, I think I have a place for you. We could use some tutors on staff.” The CMCs beam – they’d love to help! And they’re ready to get started right away! “How about after you finish class with Miss Cheerilee,” Twilight adds with a smile.

END