

Southwest 'Like a friend of the family ... since 1924'

# NEWS-HERALD



Volume 92, Number 13

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2017

75¢ Newsstand Price

## DAWES

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The short-term result was a verbal commitment from Emanuel for upgrades at the school, 3810 W. 81st Place.

The long-term result was to deliver—a result celebrated last Friday as First Lady Amy Rule, Curtis, Dixon and Dawes faculty, staff, parents and students hailed two new eight-classroom modular units (doubling the space of the old units), as well as a new playlot, a gate and communications upgrades in the main school building.

Dixon praised the mayor for his commitment to Dawes and said she thinks that under Emanuel's leadership, "public education is headed in the right direction in Chicago...this school is fantastic, and we have all the tools we need to make it happen."

She also praised Curtis as a champion of neighborhood schools who "really pushed through this project for us."

Dixon recalled a meeting at Dawes in the summer of 2016, when parents, students and other packed the gym to hear about plans for the upgrades.



With an assist from Dawes students, 18th Ward Ald. Derrick Curtis cuts a ceremonial ribbon on two new modular units and other upgrades at the Ashburn school

— Southwest News-Herald photo by Tim Hadac

"They unveiled the drawings for this new project... and we had a few setbacks along the way, because finances are what they are in Chicago; and at times we didn't have the funding that we needed," she said. "But they pushed this through for us and made sure that it opened on time, for the first day of school."

"Our movers didn't arrive on time, but the eighth grade students that graduated last year...it took just one phone call to get 25 of our graduates over here

and help us move into these modular units," she continued. "And that's what we are. We're a community school, and we couldn't do this without support from the entire community."

Curtis thanked the mayor for "giving our children the right to the tree of life." He said the upgrades are an example of Emanuel's "promises made, promises kept" and praised him for "making a \$12 million investment in our children here at Dawes."

Dawes is a neighborhood school with a comprehensive

Gifted Program in math, science and accelerated reading. Dawes has a significant English Learner program, and this year a record 68.3 percent of students met or exceeded the national testing average in reading and 62.5 percent of students met or exceeded the average in math on the 2016-17 Northwest Evaluation Association Measures of Academic Progress (NWEA MAP) exam. For the fifth year in a row, all CPS students have outscored national peers in both subjects.