



WHITE PLAINS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WHITE PLAINS HIGH SCHOOL
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Ellen Doherty
Principal

June 2019

Dear Syracuse University Project Advance Student:

Welcome to SUPA, a first year college course in academic writing and textual studies that all Syracuse freshmen take as part of their baccalaureate studies at Syracuse University. You will find this college course enjoyable, challenging, and useful. SUPA will intellectually challenge you, requiring you to deeply explore and thoroughly interact with college-level subject matter. This college course will prepare you to transition from high school to college, and you will earn 6 college credits.

In preparation for this year, please read:

***When Breath Becomes Air*, by Paul Kalanithi**

In this memoir, Kalanithi writes about how he was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer at the age of thirty-six, while on the verge of completing a decade's worth of training as a neurosurgeon. One day he was a doctor treating the dying, and the next he was a patient struggling to live. And just like that, the future he and his wife had imagined evaporated. *When Breath Becomes Air* is an unforgettable, life-affirming reflection on the challenge of facing death and on the relationship between doctor and patient, from a brilliant writer who became both.

Enjoy the summer reading experience and be prepared to share your favorite aspects of the book in September. We look forward to a SUPA year together!

Sincerely,

Seren Cepler, Amy Estersohn, & Nicole Reis
Adjunct Instructors,
Syracuse University