



## **Springs Valley Blackhawk Brigade**

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### **“Seitz” of Leadership in the Brigade**

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FRENCH LICK, Ind. – Similar to athletics, graduation brings about leadership changes. The same applies in the world on marching bands. Luke Aylsworth has named Nia Seitz the new drum major of the Springs Valley Blackhawk Brigade, taking over for graduating senior Elise McElroy.

Three students were interested in taking over as drum major. Following Aylsworth speaking to the three, he made his decision. “My heart rate shot up!” said Seitz. “I was so excited; I didn’t know what to really think for a few minutes.”

“Nia is an outstanding student and musician,” said Aylsworth. “She will do a great job as a student leader.” Seitz will add this leadership position to a resume that is already loaded as she is on the academic team and softball team.

The drum major position requires a great deal of hard work maintaining the tempo of 90 performers of all ages. “Everything I have witnessed from her during her time in band indicates she is more than ready for the responsibility,” said Aylsworth.

It is also a different perspective going from a marcher to the drum major position. Seitz has been marching for four years. This fifth year will bring a new challenge.” Marching was tons of fun but I’m sure this will be even sweeter,” said Seitz.

Not only does the role change, but the view changes as well. As a marcher, you watch the drum major. Now, Seitz will turn her attention from watching, to being watched. “It will be neat to actually be on the podium, facing and conducting for them instead of being down on the field, marching and playing with them.”

The Brigade will begin their summer practice schedule in June and the annual band camp in mid July. Seitz is understandably excited and anxious about the upcoming camp and filling the shoes left behind. “Elise and Morgan were great drum majors but I’m confident in myself in leading this outstanding group. The band will be counting on me to keep everything going right,” concluded Seitz.