

The East Washington Middle School dance team didn't claim a regional championship, but they did continue their successful season by qualifying for the state meet.

Previously this year they had won first-, second-, and third-place trophies.

"They have continually improved their scores all season to receive their highest score on record at regionals of a 72.33," said Coach Shelby Troutman.

Friday, Feb. 24, after a long, hard week of practice, the team traveled three hours north to Crawfordsville to prepare for Regional competition.

After arrival the girls and Troutman enjoyed time in the hotel pool and hot tub for some last minute team bonding.

The day started with hair and make-up at 8 a.m.

After a busy day and an unexpected fire alarm, East Washington took the floor at almost 4 p.m.

"They gave a nearly flawless performance," Troutman said. "With only a 5-point spread between all seven teams in our division, the team was unable to grab a championship position. Nonetheless, with their highest score on record of a 72.33 they qualified for state."

State will be held on March 10th in New Castle.

The middle school Starz will compete against nine other teams.

"As a first year coach, I am extremely proud of my dancers and their success this year," Troutman said. "These young ladies have greatly improved over the past nine months to become well-rounded dancers.

"I encourage each and every child interested in joining the dance team to attend try-outs at the end of the school year. No experience is needed! Try-outs will be announced in the Newsletter provided by the middle school."