

Deborah Graham-Gibson is one of the Elementary Music Specialists at Barrington Elementary in the Upper Arlington City Schools. During her time in Upper Arlington, she has taught Elementary Music as well as Middle School Choral music in five district buildings. She also currently serves as the District K-12 Arts Coordinator. Deborah was named the Upper Arlington Teacher of the Year in 2004 and was the recipient of the Columbus Symphony Elementary Music Educator Award in 2011.

The Columbus Symphony Award enabled taiko to come to Barrington Elementary in 2012. Eric Paton, Percussion Professor at Capital University and international taiko specialist, came to Barrington as an Artist in Residence, teaching the art and culture of taiko drumming to all of the children. A small group of children who were especially interested worked further with him, and that group was the first to appear as part of the 2012 Dublin Taiko Gala. The group has grown from that small beginning to what is now three groups divided by their years of experience: the Ichidan (beginners), Nidan (more experienced), and Matsuri (students who have studied for three years).

Deborah earned her Bachelor of Sciences in Music Education from the University of Maryland, and her Master of Arts in Music Education from Ohio State University. Her areas of focus at the University of Maryland were both Music Education and Flute Performance. At Ohio State University, she focused her work with an emphasis in students with special needs along with integrating academic classroom and Music class themes. She completed all three levels for full Orff-Schulwerk certification in 2014 at Baldwin-Wallace University, and is an active member of the Central Ohio American Orff-Schulwerk Association. She has also earned World Music Drumming Level 1 and Dalcroze Eurythmics Level 1 Certification.