# Vclass in the new Blackboard Collaborate

Vclass is EBUS's virtual classroom.  It's an exciting and interactive virtual room where teachers and students can get together to share books, read, learn, and of course socialize.  This tutorial will guide you through getting into a Vclass and using the tools available there.

To participate in a Vclass, all you need is the link – and a working computer/device and internet, of course!  A microphone headset is also handy if you'll want to use the microphone to speak in class, but is not required.

Up-to-date info for Vclasses is posted to the Vclass Valley page in Moodle – and all Elementary students at EBUS have access to the Vclass Valley page. Simply login to your child's EBUS Dashboard, click through to the main course/page listing, click on into the Vclass Valley page.

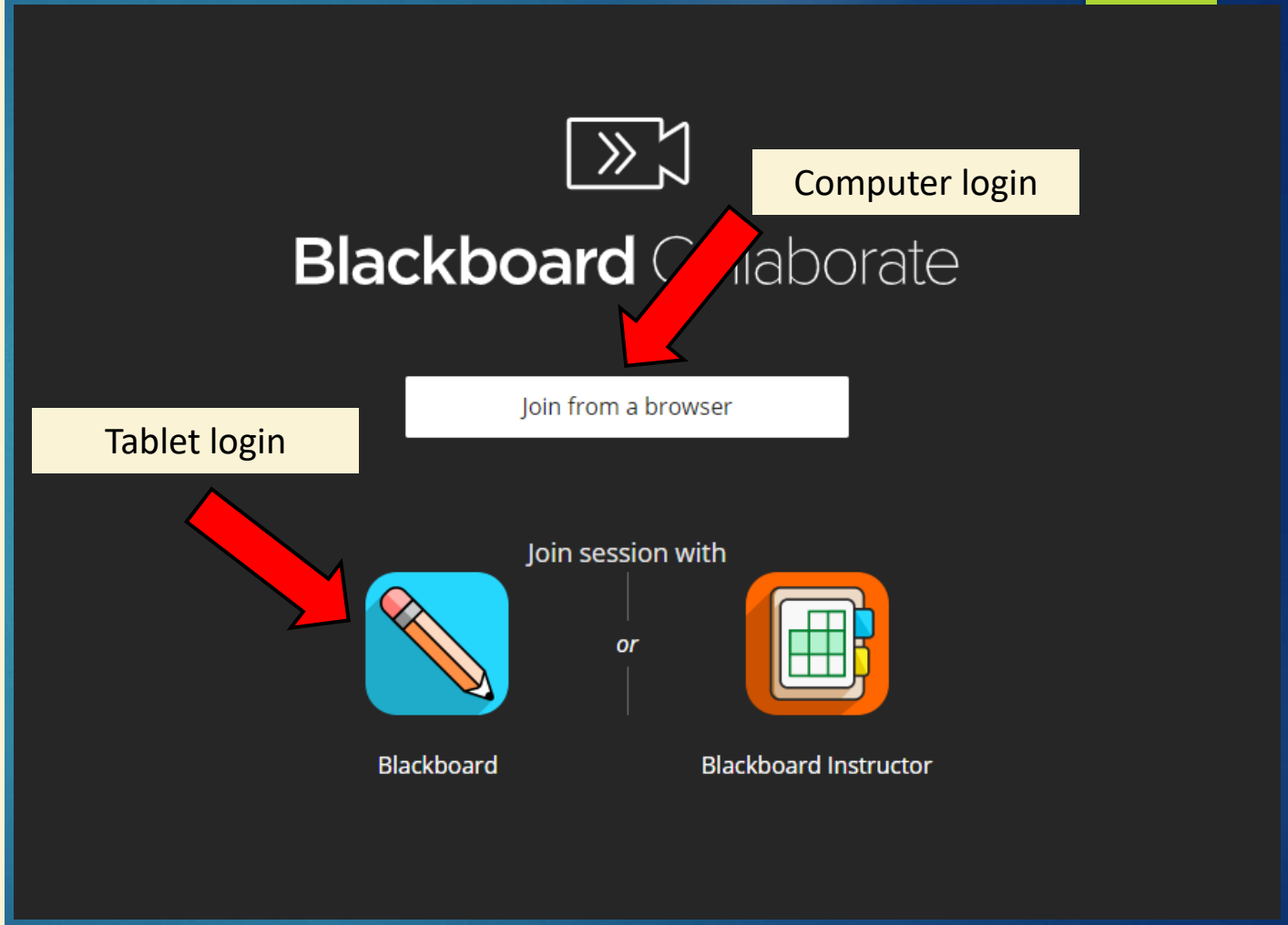
Check out the calendar on the top right and the 'Upcoming events' section for a glance at all available upcoming Vclasses. Click on the 'Upcoming/Current Vclasses' tab on the left side or scroll down to the 'Upcoming/Current Vclasses' section. Click to select the Vclass you are interested in.

On the Vclass page you've selected, there will be an 'Enter Vclass' button or link.

Click on that button/link and you'll see a page like this.

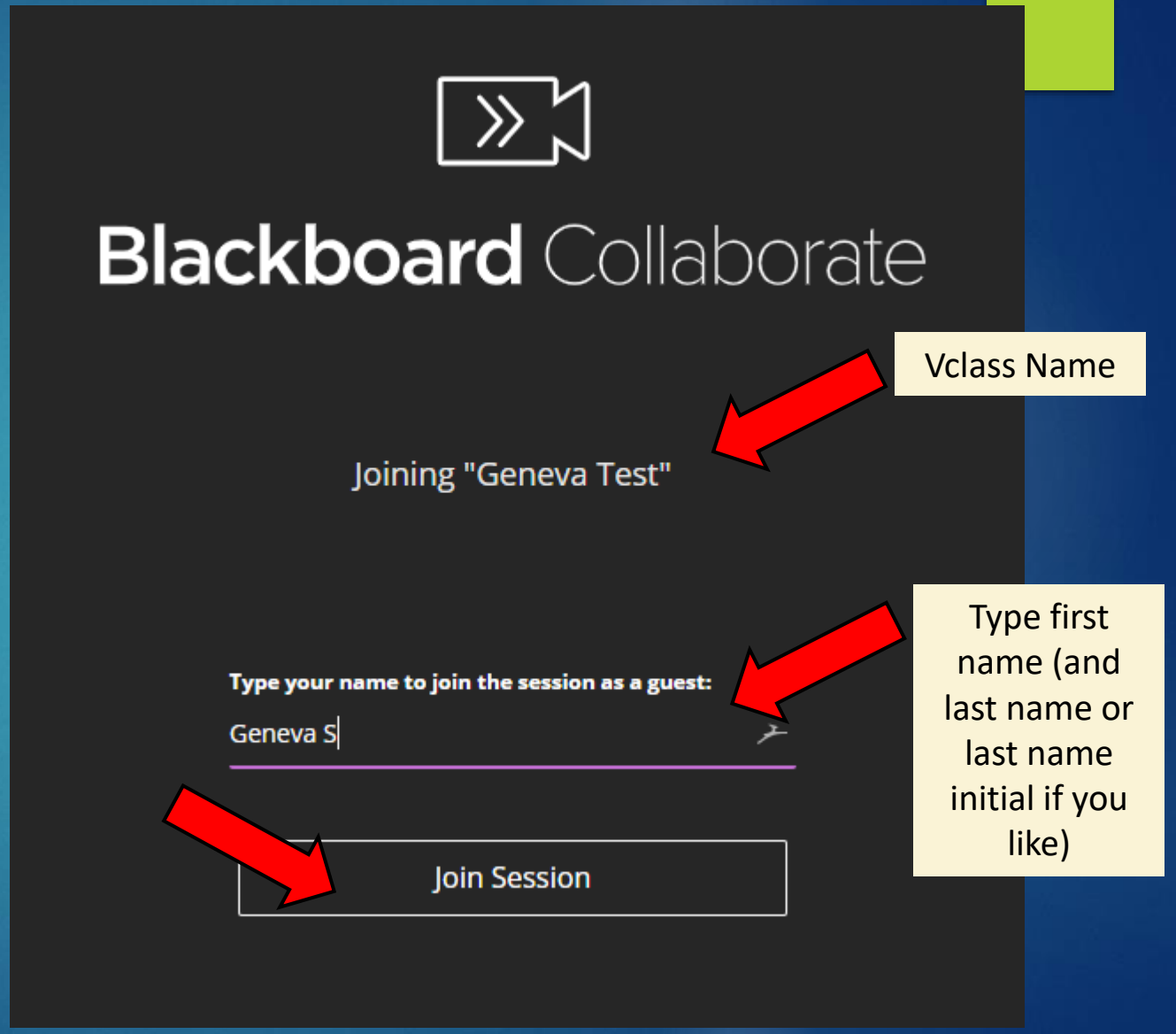
Click the **'Join from a browser' button if on a computer**.

**If on a tablet, click the pencil**; you will need to download the Blackboard app in order to continue on into the class.



Type student first name (and last name or last name initial if you like), then click the ‘Join Session’ button.

If students want, they can also include a nickname, we just ask that they **always type their real name first** (being in an online environment where we can’t really put faces to names, it’s important for teachers to know exactly who they are addressing in a class). Also, nicknames should always be appropriate for a school/public setting.



When your Vclass loads on a computer, it will look like this. **Please note things may be in slightly different locations on a phone/tablet, but basic functions will mostly be the same.** On the next pages we'll explore the different areas more closely.

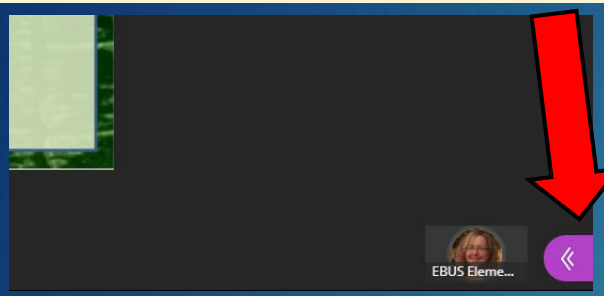
Whiteboard tools (for typing, drawing, interacting on the whiteboard)

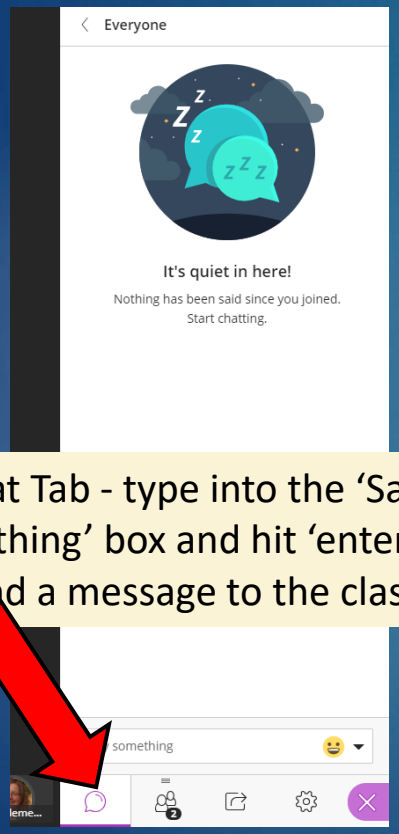
Whiteboard (where the lesson/activities will be)

Audio, video, hand up buttons

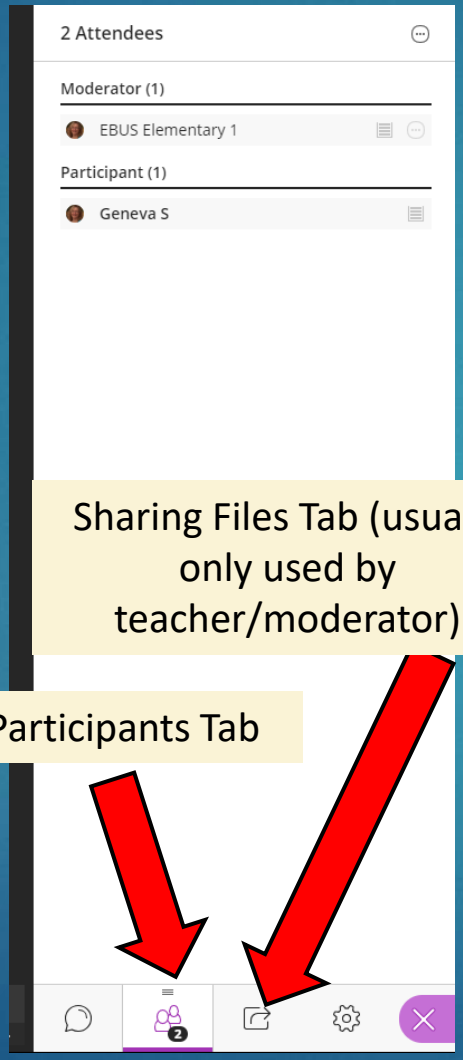
Collaborate Panel (chat, participants, settings)

On the bottom right of your screen, click on the purple ‘Collaborate Panel’ button.



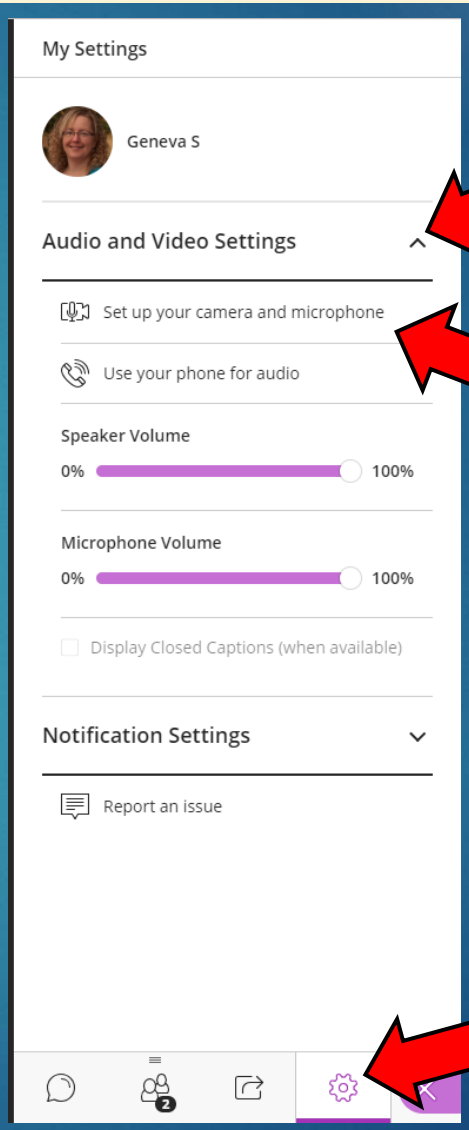




Chat Tab - type into the ‘Say something’ box and hit ‘enter’ to send a message to the class




Sharing Files Tab (usually only used by teacher/moderator)

Participants Tab

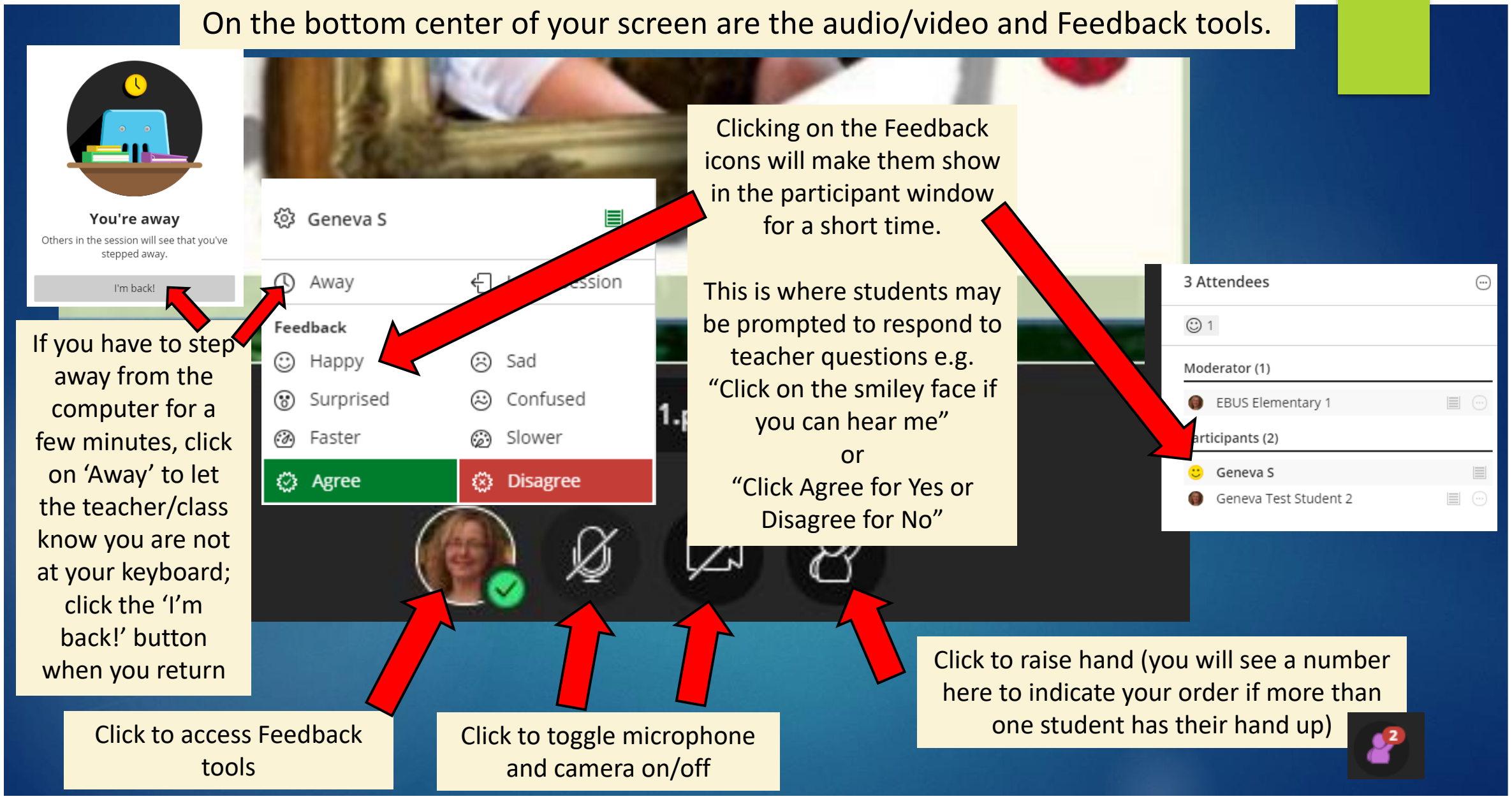



Click to toggle settings open/closed

Set up/adjust camera/microphone settings

Settings Tab

# On the bottom center of your screen are the audio/video and Feedback tools.



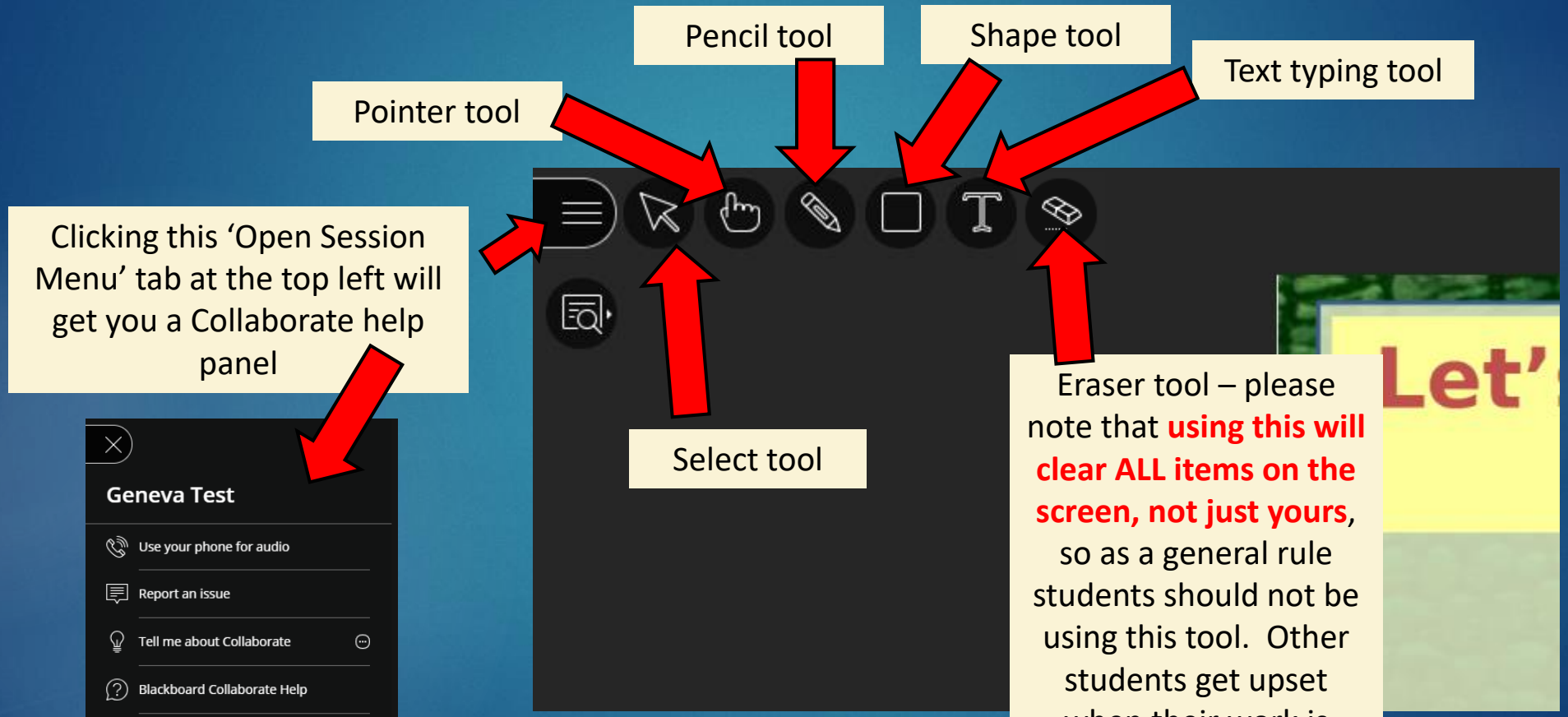

If you have to step away from the computer for a few minutes, click on 'Away' to let the teacher/class know you are not at your keyboard; click the 'I'm back!' button when you return

Clicking on the Feedback icons will make them show in the participant window for a short time.

This is where students may be prompted to respond to teacher questions e.g. "Click on the smiley face if you can hear me" or "Click Agree for Yes or Disagree for No"

Click to access Feedback tools

Click to toggle microphone and camera on/off

Click to raise hand (you will see a number here to indicate your order if more than one student has their hand up)

On the top left of your screen are the whiteboard tools. Please note that not all of these whiteboard functions are fully available on the phone/tablet app; in the app, students can draw with the pencil and use shapes, but not the text typing or pointer tools.