**Backchannels in the Classroom**

A backchannel can be defined as a group of people using computers or smartphones to have a real-time online conversation alongside a live spoken conversation. Or….we might just called it “approved note passing!”

**Why use a backchannel in the classroom?**

21st century skills and the Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) demand that we prepare our children to communicate, collaborate and connect to each other, but also to find and share information.

Using a private chatroom as the platform to practice all the above mentioned skills is a means to harness the students’ excitement for use of technology and chatting as a means of communication to review material previously discussed in class and collaboratively compile and organize information during class. It also allows everyone to have a “voice” during their learning.

**Directions:**

1. Find our backchannel for today: **http://todaysmeet.com/JuneRCC**
2. Enter your first name, last initial in the *“Who are you”* box
3. Press “tab” or select the “*What do you want to say”* box
4. Type your questions/comment and press enter
5. Address specific people or comments with “**@username**”
6. Other text “coding” might include:
	1. Starting your statement with **?** for a question that is raised
	2. Starting with **!** for an “a-ha” moment or connection



**Communicating clearly on the Internet without creating misunderstandings is a challenge.**
One problem is that you haven't any facial expressions, body language, or environment to help you express yourself; another that there is little "give and take" for developing what you mean to say or are discussing. Use these guidelines to help you:

* Be clear
* Use appropriate language
* Be brief (**You only have 140 characters!)**
* Make a good impression
* Remember you are not anonymous – but you are public! First names only!
* Be selective on what information you share
* Consider others

Adapted from <http://www.studygs.net/netiquette.htm>