For more than 20 years, the Jaime Escalante approach to math has been blazing a different path than conventional classroom instruction. Graduate math students might well ask: What is Escalante doing right? We will present three possibilities: (1) the location and timing of Escalante workshops attracts motivated students; (2) Escalante’s curriculum focuses on fundamental math concepts, avoiding the fads and experiments typical of regular classrooms; and (3) by “liberating” teachers from rigid lesson plans or resistant students, the Escalante approach also manages to create positive attitudes toward mathematics – THE key to student success. With Starr King Middle School’s Escalante project, we’ll show how in just one year students were able to achieve dramatic results – simply by making math enjoyable.

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Math Club website: http://www.calstatela.edu/academic/math/Math_Club/mathClub.htm