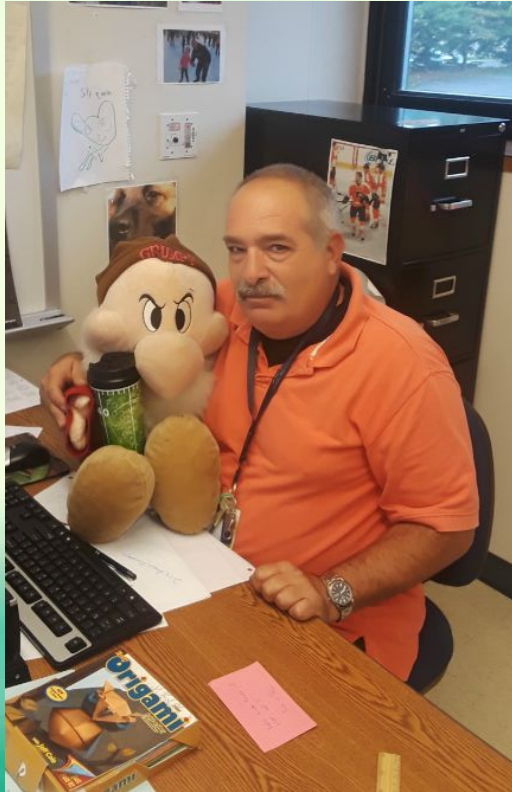


# Al Binswanger: Draw out the Brightness!



Special education assistant, Al Binswanger, has been working for the North Penn School District for twelve years in what was originally the alternative school and now is Northbridge. Al always likes to stay on the lighthearted and positive side. Al shares that, “You have to enjoy what you are doing. Our students must see the openings and possibilities they are afforded.” Al tries to use life experiences to show students that they should try to attain a goal as opposed to thinking they can’t. Special education supervisor, Juliet Matje, comments, “Al finds opportunities to build a strong rapport with students which supports their success within the general education classroom. He encourages them to meet their fullest potential by highlighting their areas of strength and interest in all his interactions.” Al encourages his colleagues to, “Be passionate when interacting with the students and try to draw the brightness from them as opposed to focusing on the negative.” He states that the people and students he works with are “amazing” and make his job worth doing every day.

Before coming to North Penn, Al worked as a program manager for adults with disabilities, as well as in a wilderness program for at-risk youth. Al shared his experience in the wilderness program was quite unique – there was no electricity or hot water in the campsite and they would catch armadillos as a group activity! Al attended Manatee Junior College and the University of Florida. For fun, he likes participating in most sports, including biking and kayaking. Al loves to travel and visit the casinos.