



As the new school year begins with remote learning, the new normal has left many working parents scrambling to find child care options.

This fall, the Boys and Girls Club of King County will open their doors to 800 students per day at all 35 clubs serving students from seven different school districts.

"Some families need all day care, some families want care during school time, and then some families are looking for the normal after school care," said Laurie Black, President and CEO of the Boys and Girls Club of King County.

In the most extreme cases, some families will drop off their kids at 7:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Once inside the clubs, the students will have access to computer labs for virtual classes with their schools.

Staff will also provide meals and breaks to allow for social interaction and screen fatigue.

"We are providing a sense of normalcy during a crazy time, that makes feel the kids a more normal," said Brandee Paisano, who serves as the Area Director for the Boys and Girls Club. "Even with our education system, we need to focus on social and emotional needs of our children to make sure those are met, so that way we can start educating them."

Kids inside the clubs will be required to wear mask and social distance.

And as the students rotate in and out of the computer labs, the staff will conduct thorough deep cleanings.

Also, before entering the club, each student will be given a health questionnaire and a temperature screening. Most of these protocols were quickly developed during the spring when school originally shutdown during the pandemic.

"We found out on a Thursday that public schools were closing," remembered Black. "So, the next day we had to open for full day care for families, so we really didn't have time to think about it. This time we had a chance to prepare and fine tune."

Ryan Yamamoto | August 27 | Clubs Ready to Help Working Parents| KOMO News 4

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