By Jan Schultz
The Imperial Republican

A seventh grade student at Chase County Schools has been expelled for the rest of the school year after a small amount of marijuana was allegedly brought to the school by the student.

Imperial police, with the assistance of a drug dog and handler from the Red Willow County Sheriff's Office in McCook, worked with school officials in the investigation.

Police Chief Rob Browning said he was already at the school for a meeting last Thursday when he was contacted there by 7-12 Principal Mike Sorensen about the incident.

Browning said several students reported to the principal a fellow student had brought drugs to the school. After initial interviews, the suspected student's locker was searched with administration present, Browning said.

When not found there, some indication was given through the interviews that it might be hidden in the library, the police chief said.

Due to the large library area, he said he decided to call in for assistance from Red Willow County.

Once the dog was on school grounds, students were kept in classrooms for about 20 to 25 minutes, Principal Sorensen said.

Browning said it didn't take the dog long to find the marijuana hidden in a library book shelf. About two grams of marijuana was discovered, he said.

The student's parents were then called, and after meeting with the administration, Sorensen said the student was expelled as per school policy.

Sorensen said CCS will continue to provide education to the student, who will come in before and after school a couple days each week for homework and to meet with teachers.

Browning said charges are pending. He will be turning over his information and reports to the county attorney.